DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

I respect all religions, says CJI

Justice Gavai reacts to posts on his temple case comment

Page 10

India has 8.7 lakh millionaire households, Bengaluru 31,600

Page 12

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Sebi clears Adani of Hindenburg-linked charges

Says allegations of insider-trading not substantiated

Page 12

Sports P.13

World Athletics Championships: Sydney steals the show

World

Trump, Starmer sign historic technology deal P.11

State

Dh'sthala SIT: 2-day searches yield 7 skulls **P.5**

Sports

Asia Cup: ICC mulling action against Pak **P.14**

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. AP/PTI

Saudi-Pak pact to help each other during threats

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Saudi Arabia has disregarded the personal rapport between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and overlooked India's concerns as it signed a defence pact with Pakistan, committing to help each other during any aggression by a third country.

Prince Salman (MBS), the Arab nation's de facto ruler, hosted Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif in Riyadh on Wednesday.

They signed a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, which stipulates that Saudi and Pakistan will consider any external aggression against either country as an aggression against both, necessitating a joint response.

▸ **Saudi-Pak pact, Page 6**

Cabinet divided over caste survey

Objections raised about certain caste names and religion status of Lingayats

CONTENTIOUS POINTS

Presence of castes such as Madiwala Chrisitian, Vokkaliga Christian, Lingayat Christian, Brahmin Christian and so on

- Whether Lingayats should enumerate as Hindus or as a separate religion under 'others'?
- Even if to enumerate as others, should thy enumerate as 'Veerashaiva Lingayats' or just 'Lingayats'?
- Why the overall number of castes has risen to 1,561?

> The Backward Classes Commission has continued with some caste names which had been added during the previous caste survey. The start of the exercise may get delayed by 2-3 days but will certainly take place
> - A senior minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

With only days left for starting the social and educational survey (caste census), the Karnataka Cabinet was a divided house on Thursday, with some ministers, citing objections and confusion, demanding that the exercise be postponed.

The meeting is said to have witnessed heated exchanges as some ministers questioned certain caste nomenclatures in the enumeration list, such as Vokkaliga Christian, Madiwala Christian, Brahmin Christian, Lingayat Christian and so on.

A few ministers reportedly argued that the Hindu caste identity becomes redundant after conversion to Christianity, and that those caste references should be removed.

At present, there are 1,561 castes in the list (excluding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes), and four other categories – 'others', 'not applicable', 'refuse to disclose caste' and 'don't know caste'.

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar apparently told the Cabinet that no community has to be divided, while adding that the government would have to face the consequences of such decisions.

Discussions also touched upon the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha urging fellow Lingayats to not enumerate themselves as Hindus but register in the 'others' column.

While some factions of Lingayat sub-sects are in favour of registering as Hindus, some are said to be divided on mentioning Veerashaiva Lingayat or just Lingayat in the 'others' column. Some ministers are said to have even wondered whether a fresh survey is needed right now.

CM Siddaramaiah is said to have lamented that he is being branded as sectarian, adding that he wants to shed that tag. He is said to have asked some senior ministers to sit again and discuss the issues.

▸ **Caste survey, Page 6**

DH DECIPHERS

How and when a social group is recognised as tribal community

Page 6

US tariffs on India may be cut to 10-15% in two months: CEA

Hopes that Trump's 25% penal tariff will be scrapped

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and the United States are likely to have a trade deal in the next two months under which the 25% penal tariff on Indian exports is likely to be scrapped and the 25% reciprocal tariff to be lowered to 10-15%, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Thursday.

"My personal confidence is that in the next couple of months, if not earlier, we will see a resolution to at least the extra penal tariff of 25%. It may also be the case that the reciprocal tariff may come down to the level, which we were earlier anticipating, somewhere between 10-15%," Nageswaran said at an event in Kolkata.

He said the "conversations are going on between the two governments" on the proposed trade deal.

Trade officials from India and the US met in New Delhi on Tuesday to restart the negotiation on the bilateral trade agreement after nearly two months of pause due to diplomatic tension following the imposition of 50% tariff by the Donald Trump administration.

▸ **Tariffs, Page 6**

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran addresses a gathering in Kolkata on Thursday. PTI

US ends Chabahar waiver

The US on Thursday lifted the waiver from sanctions that enabled India to continue its operations at Iran's Chabahar Port, even as the US embassy in Delhi revoked visas for "certain business executives" over alleged links to trafficking fentanyl precursors.

Details on Page 11

Dasara invite to Banu: SC to hear plea today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine on Friday a plea challenging the Karnataka High Court's decision upholding the state government's invitation to Booker prize winner Banu Mushtaq as chief guest for the inauguration of the upcoming Mysuru Dasara festival.

Banu Mushtaq

A bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai decided to schedule the matter based on a plea by advocate Sughosh Subramanyam for urgent hearing.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta would take up the petition filed by H S Gaurav, a Bengaluru resident.

Details on Page 6

Rahul takes up Aland voter rolls, targets CEC

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rahul Gandhi

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday brought Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar under a direct line of fire, accusing him of stonewalling Karnataka CID's requests for information that could help identify those who sought "illegal deletion" of around 6,000 names from the voters' list in Karnataka's Aland Assembly constituency.

The top Congress leader demanded that destination IP addresses, device destination ports and OTP trails of phones used to apply for deletion of 6,018 names be shared with the investigators "within a week" or else people will "know for sure" that there is "undeniable" proof that Kumar is "protecting the 'vote chors' (vote thieves)" and is complicit in the "murder of the Constitution".

"I am going to make a serious claim about Gyanesh Kumar. I am not saying this lightly, I am the leader of Opposition...Our demand is Gyanesh Kumar, do your job, you have taken an oath, you are India's chief election commissioner, you must give evidence to the Karnataka CID," he said.

Addressing his second press conference on the 'vote chori' (vote theft) theme here, Rahul claimed that "someone" has set up a "centralised criminal operation" to steal elections through automated filing of online applications to delete names from the electoral roll.

▸ **Rahul, Page 6**

EC rejects claim, Page 7

ORR mess: Companies can't threaten govt, says DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar courted controversy on Thursday by stating that companies cannot "threaten" and blackmail the government, and that Bengaluru has provided a conducive ecosystem and massive opportunity.

His statement comes a day after logistics tech platform BlackBuck's co-founder Rajesh Yabaji announced that his company would move out of Bellandur's outer ring road (ORR) due to traffic, potholes and dust.

"Namma Bengaluru is India's startup capital and a global leader. All businesses recognise this massive opportunity and Bengaluru's conducive ecosystem. That's why they choose our city. As Bengaluru's Development Minister, I stand committed to building a stronger, smarter Namma Bengaluru for all," he later posted on X.

Industry veterans believe the government's response could have been better and recalled the positive response of former CM S M Krishna when similar issues were raised by Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy and Wipro founder Azim Premji.

As pressure builds on the government, senior bureaucrats, along with traffic police and Metro officials, inspected the ORR from Central Silk Board to Hebbal. Decisions were taken to ease congestion at 20 spots, including Silk Board, Iblur, Bellandur, Kadubeesanahalli and Nagawara. Instructions were given to expedite the widening of Panathur Road.

Meanwhile, a few citizens decided to take to the streets on January 1 if the government failed to fix Bengaluru's infrastructure in 100 days.

Not leaving B'luru: BlackBuck, Page 12

PRISTINE SPOT

Plan for museum in B'luru on W Ghats ecology

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru may house a museum and botanical garden to showcase the ecology and environment of the Western Ghats and throw light on the unique species like the lion-tailed macaques or dancing frogs, apart from conserving its flora.

The Western Ghats Task Force has submitted a proposal to Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, seeking about 10 acres of land within Bengaluru Urban district to set up Western Ghats Museum and Research Institute. Assuring limited financial burden on the state government, the task force seeks to bring funds from private companies through corporate social responsibility (CSR).

To a question, Khandre said the government has not taken a decision on the project. "I am yet to read the report. We will discuss the matter before taking a decision," he told *DH*.

The forest department has an arboretum in Kalkere where efforts are being made to conserve Western Ghats flora. However, the task force said their project will be different.

"This will neither be a mere arboretum nor a typical museum," Task Force Chairman Mohammed Tabrez Alam Shariff told *DH*.

▸ **Western Ghats, Page 6**

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Chaos continues: Residents caught on flooded roads, complain about lack of scientific roadwork

Rains push city's fragile infra to the brink

SHRADDHA AK & ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Motorists wade through knee-deep water on MG Road on Thursday. DH PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

The city's infrastructure has taken a battering in the persisting rains, with waterlogging, potholes and choking traffic reported from many places.

Residents point to poor road quality and unscientific roadworks for increasing road accidents.

"Bengaluru drives on the left-hand side of the road, but on Sarjapur Road, we drive on what's left of the road," quipped Varghese Thomas, a resident of Muthanallur.

Hennur, Byrathi, Sarjapur Road, and Whitefield are badly hit, with the Doddagubbi-Hennur stretch turning perilous as potholes and waterlogged underpasses trigger frequent accidents.

Rakesh Malhotra, a member of the civic group Hennur Taskers, pointed to poor road construction for the issue. "If roads are built scientifically without cutting corners, they will last, not roads made in a short period," he said.

Residents stranded due to lack of public transport turned to private vehicles that only worsened the traffic congestion. Auto and taxi services have also been scarce, with people either paying high fares or facing denial of service.

With roads submerged, drains and carriageways became indistinguishable. Garbage mixed with water becomes a stinky mess that even make motorists skid.

Frequent accidents are not making things any better. Recently, an oil truck toppled on Sarjapur Road due to a huge pothole, and a college bus nearly falling into a ditch near Geddlahalli could have been worse.

VARGHESE THOMAS
A resident of Muthanallur

"Bengaluru drives on the left-hand side of the road, but on Sarjapur Road, we drive on what's left of the road.

Residents ask for better connectivity and infrastructure for the road situation to be better.

The IT corridor, especially the Outer Ring Road, was among the worst hit.

"We have deployed additional teams to manage hotspots, especially around Marathahalli and Kadubeesanahalli. But if it rains during peak hours, traffic will stall," said Sahil Bagla, Deputy Commissioner of Police, (Traffic, East).

Jayaprakash, Deputy Commissioner of Police, (Traffic, North), said officers were on the ground advising commuters to use live traffic apps, take alternative routes, and avoid unnecessary travel.

For residents, commuting has become gruelling.

Harish from Whitefield said it took him over two hours to travel 5 km from Brookefield. "The roads are a mess of potholes and waterlogging," he said.

Citizens also called for long-term solutions.

"Stormwater drains and rainwater harvesting can help manage runoff and ease water shortages. But we must stop concretising everything, as permeable surfaces are vital for groundwater recharge and flood control," said Yashaswini Sharma of Malleswaram.

She warned that untreated waste in drains, encroachments on lakebeds, and large-scale tree removal have worsened flooding. "With climate change, the city must brace for heavier and more erratic rain," she added.

Sneha of Indiranagar flagged another crisis. "Heavy rain combines with garbage overflow. Drains on main roads are choked with plastic and waste," she said.

DCP Jayaprakash said that traffic was crawling near Hebbal and Nagawara due to waterlogging, with Veeranapalya also being affected . "We are working with the civic authorities to clear bottlenecks. During heavy rain, we pool personnel from other stations to manage traffic in vulnerable areas," he said.

Southwest monsoon likely to extend until mid-October

BENGALURU, DHNS: The southwest monsoon is set to pound the whole of Karnataka for the next 10 days, with heavy rainfall likely this weekend, according to a senior IMD official.

While the southwest monsoon has begun to retreat from northwestern India, it's an entirely different situation in the south.

Southwest monsoon winds over peninsular India have weakened (less than 10 knots in Bengaluru), but an upper trough as high as 1.5 km is passing through North Interior Karnataka and northern Tamil Nadu.

"As a result, the whole of Karnataka will see rain over the next week to 10 days," said N Puviarasan, head of the IMD's meteorological centre in Bengaluru. What's more, the southwest monsoon current is expected to strengthen in about four days as a cyclone builds up in the Pacific Ocean and a low-pressure area forms over the north Bay of Bengal. This will trigger heavy rains in South Interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, over the weekend, he explained.

Monsoon withdrawal

People living in Bengaluru and other parts of South Interior Karnataka may not get a break from rains anytime soon.

The southwest monsoon, which normally withdraws from the region in early October, will likely linger until mid-October. The northeast monsoon is expected to set in immediately, with little or no transition time.

"There may be no break in between," IMD official N Puviarasan told DH.

On Thursday evening, Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka received widespread moderate to heavy rainfall.

Between 8.30 am and 8.30 pm, Bengaluru city recorded 45.9 mm of rainfall with thunderstorms, HAL airport 6 mm, and the Bengaluru Urban automatic weather station 47.5 mm.

Doddathoguru, near Electronics City, logged 55 mm.

The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Yadgir, Koppal, Raichur, Ramanagara and Mandya districts.

People seek shelter under an umbrella during the downpour in Majestic on Thursday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	16.0mm
Humidity	93%
Sunset (Sept 19)	6:19 pm
Sunrise (Sept 20)	6:09 am
Moonrise	3:01 am
Moonset	4:04 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KMF launches Nandini products in US at World Kannada Summit

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) launched its signature products — Nandini ghee and sweets — in the United States at the eighth NAVIKA World Kannada Summit 2025 in Lakeland, Florida.

The event was organised by Naavu Vishwa Kannadigaru (NAVIKA), a US-based Kannadiga community organisation.

KMF Managing Director B Shivaswamy officially unveiled the products. The initiative seeks to expand Nandini's global footprint and strengthen its brand presence.

Also present were Kumar, Director of Koolu Super Foods, the official importer of Nandini ghee to the US; Shivakumar, President of NAVIKA; and Harshith Gowda, Convener of NAVIKA.

Over 40 nursing students clash in senior-junior row

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over 40 nursing students at a private college in Avalahalli, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, clashed on Wednesday in a fight between seniors and juniors.

The incident occurred outside the college at Virgo Nagar, and surfaced on Thursday after a video of the brawl went viral on social media.

The police said the clash involved third year and final-year students, all from Kerala, over a trivial issue.

"The college has rusticated eight students. No police case has been registered. However, around 40 students engaged in the act were called and strictly warned. Officers have also kept a precautionary watch at the spot," a senior police officer said.

White-topping project gets cabinet nod despite 18% cost hike

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state cabinet on Thursday approved white-topping of roads in the Gandhinagar assembly constituencies at Rs 58.44 crore, 18% higher than the Greater Bengaluru Authority's estimate.

Normally, bids exceeding estimates are re-tendered, but the government has decided to proceed in this case.

The work has been awarded to NCC Limited.

The project, originally pegged at Rs 46.33 crore, is part of the Rs 900-crore grant announced in 2023-24. While work has begun in most constituencies, tender delays held up projects in some segments.

The cabinet also cleared tenders for white-topping of roads in Hebbal at Rs 50.03 crore. The tendering process is underway.

Musical discourse tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will organise a special Harikatha concert on MS Subbulakshmi at 5.30 pm on Saturday at 9th Main Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage.

The event will see Gowri N Prasad on vocals, Prajna N Prasad, Harikatha and Abhiram Bhat on violin, and Aniruddha Vasudev on mridanga.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Centre for Indian Knowledge System and CAIAS: Expert talk on 'Ethical Leadership and Civic Engagement'; Gururaj S Davangere, columnist and Principal of National Academy of Learning, RR Institutions; Chavara Hall, Christ Academy; 2 pm.

Higher Education Department: Inauguration of 'Deepika', scholarship for higher education; Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, Basavaraja Horatti, UT Khader, MC Sudhakar, Azim Premji and others; Babu Rajendra Prasad Hall, Gandhi Krishi Vijnana Kendra; 4 pm.

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharati Pradhikara: Lecture on the roots of Kannada and Dravidian languages by Venkateshaiah Nellukunte; Pradhikara premises, Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Krishna Performing Arts Academy: Kathak recital; Mysore B Nagaraj and Pradeep Kumar to be guests; Seva Sadana, Malleswaram; 6 pm.

Adishakti Kala Ranga Samsthe: Staging of the play 'The Rising of Death', directed by Sandeep Bhattacharya; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavana, JC Road; from 6 pm onwards.

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Yellow Line: 15-min headway soon as 5th train on way to city

New set to enter service in mid-Oct

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

One of the coaches of the fifth trainset for the Yellow Line dispatched by Bengal-based TRSL.

Trains on the Yellow Line will run every 15-16 minutes as Namma Metro is set to deploy a fifth trainset next month.

Late Thursday night, Bengal-based Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) dispatched all six coaches of the new set. Three were packed on Tuesday and the remaining three on Thursday.

"All six coaches have been loaded onto trailers and dispatched from the factory," said an official from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The coaches — transported by global freight forwarding company Total Movements — are expected to reach Bengaluru by early October, depending on weather and traffic conditions.

Once assembled into a trainset, they will undergo static tests at the Hebbagodi depot's Inspection Bay Line (IBL), followed by two weeks of night trial runs on the mainline, the official added.

Like the fourth trainset, the fifth one is also fully made in India and is expected to enter passenger service in mid-October.

The 19.15-km Yellow Line, which connects RV Road with Bommasandra via Silk Board Junction, opened on August 11 with three trainsets and a 25-minute frequency. Frequency improved to 19 minutes from September 10 onwards after a fourth trainset was added.

The Yellow Line has expanded Bengaluru's metro network to 96.1 km and increased daily ridership to over a million.

Average daily ridership on the Yellow Line now stands at 84,000, said BL Yashavanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRCL.

TRSL is making trains under a sub-contract with China's CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Co Ltd, which won a Rs 1,578-crore contract to deliver 36 trainsets for Namma Metro.

A senior BMRCL official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the sixth trainset was likely to be dispatched in early November due to delays in bogie supplies.

A bogie is an underframe connecting the superstructure of the coach. There are 12 bogies in a six-coach train, or two per coach. Each bogie weighs 7.5 tonnes.

"The bogies have been delayed over motor safety certification issues, which have now been resolved. They're expected in early October. The sixth trainset is expected to reach Bengaluru in early November," the official stated.

The seventh and eighth trainsets are undergoing outfitment and their bogies will be dispatched by sea, the official added.

From Rs 1 cr to Rs 3 cr: Govt expands commissioners' project-sanctioning powers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has empowered commissioners of the five newly carved corporations to approve projects up to Rs 3 crore, tripling the earlier Rs 1-crore limit set for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

This will allow corporations to take up minor works independently and without delay.

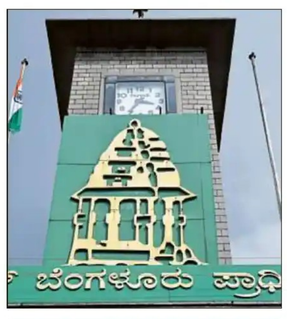
As per an order issued on September 17, commissioners have been authorised to grant administrative approval for works to be tendered and to approve tenders after receiving quotations.

Commissioners can now sanction works up to Rs 3 crore, while the standing committee of councillors will handle projects between Rs 3 crore and Rs 5 crore. The elected council will approve works up to Rs 10 crore. Projects above Rs 10 crore will need state government approval.

The same authority applies to tenders, but with caps.

Commissioners cannot approve projects if bidders quote more than 2% above the estimate. The standing committee has a 3% margin and the council has a 5% margin, ensuring fair bidding and preventing overspending.

On Thursday, the government also formed a tender scrutiny committee under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, headed by the GBA commissioner with four members, including the chief engineer of the project concerned.



Helpline

The Bengaluru City Central Corporation on Thursday shared control room numbers for citizen grievances. The corporation covers Shanthinagar, CV Raman Nagar, Gandhinagar, Chamarajpet, Chikpet, and Shivajinagar.

The numbers: 080-22975803, 9480685702

Separate order

In a separate order, the government authorised the Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department (UDD) to approve leave for the commissioners of the five corporations.

Registration for GPO's philately exhibition now open

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru West Postal Division will host a district-level philatelic exhibition, 'Bengalurupex-2025', at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath on November 4 and 5.

Entries will close on October 3, the release said.

The exhibition aims to promote philately and provide a platform for collectors to showcase their collections.

Participation is divided into 'Competitive' and 'Non-Competitive Classes', the latter by invitation only. The 'Competitive Class' is open to all stamp collectors, including students.

Entries must be submitted to the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Bengaluru West Division, before the deadline.

As part of the event, stamp designing and letter-writing contests will be organised for students, along with philatelic workshops.

For details, contact 080-23493263 or 23493283.

ONE WOMAN'S RESOLVE

The show must go on: Dhaatu's Dasara defies all odds

BENGALURU, DHNS

Thousands of dolls depicting themes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavad Gita will feature in the Dhaatu Dasara Navaratra Mahotsava, which includes a main display of Rishyashringa and Rama Jnana.

The show, which begins on September 22, will include story-telling and puppet shows on the Ramayana everyday, besides puppet shows on Bhakta Prahalada on October 1 and Vijayanagara Vaibhava on October 2 by the Dhaatu Puppet Theatre.

For Dhaatu's Anupama Hoskere, who has been putting up her annual Dasara doll exhibition for 29 years without a break, the 30th edition of the show this year had suddenly come under a cloud after she lost her father-in-law and mother within a space of months.

And when Anupama herself fractured her arm after a fall days before her mother's demise a few weeks ago, she had almost resigned herself to calling off this year's show.

Anupama and husband Vidyashankar at the main stage, with Rishyashringa coming to Ayodhya in a boat.

A view of the dolls at the exhibition.

When & where

The exhibition will be held at Mandala Cultural Centre on Kanakapura Road, next to the Silk Institute metro station from 10.30 am to 7 pm. It will be on till October 12.

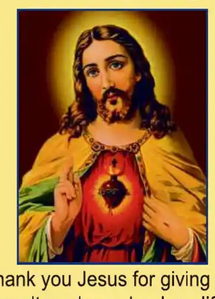
'Beyond a personal activity'

"But I realised that the Dhaatu Dasara Navaratra Mahotsava is something beyond a personal activity," says Anupama, who speaks about something driving her to go headlong into the preparations despite fracturing her arm.

"There will be a separate section for children this year, where they can arrange the dolls by themselves and experience the spirit of Dasara," says Anupama, whose work to revive and propagate puppetry and Indian culture has earned her honours like the Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

A theme on Kashmir is another attraction in this year's show, Anupama added.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

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- Dr Priyanka Rayan

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HC bins PIL to stop screening of 'Jolly LLB 3'

Petitioner to pay Rs 50,000 for 'unjustifiably consuming court's time'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday dismissed a PIL asking to stop the screening of the movie 'Jolly LLB 3', scheduled for release on Friday.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi also imposed Rs 50,000 on the petitioner for "unjustifiable consumption of judicial time".

"It is obvious that the depiction of the courtroom scene appears to be eyeing to appeal to the sense of humour of the audience. The depiction of the courtroom does not appeal to the sense of humour of the petitioner or this court. That is no ground to stifle creativity or issue an order for censoring the same," the bench said.

Bengaluru-based advocate Syeda Neelufur had sought action against the movie's actors Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi, and maker Subhash Kapoor. She said the movie's trailer/teaser available on social media has courtroom dialogues that defames, ridicules and mocks the judiciary.

Reading out the dialogues, the petitioner's counsel prayed to the court to direct the actors and makers to publish an unconditional apology in prominent national newspapers. The counsel also sought the court's direction to investigate the matter and initiate legal action against the actors and makers.

The bench orally observed, "It is a humorous movie. It is supposed to appeal to somebody's sense of humour. It may not appeal to yours and ours. That does not mean that it can be stiffened."

The court said, "We find that such PILs unjustifiably consume judicial time and are filed for some purpose. We accordingly dismiss the petition with a cost of Rs 50,000 to be deposited with the registry of the court. If the deposit is not made, post the matter for listing on October 4, for taking coercive steps."

Yoga guru with state honours arrested for sexual assault on minor

Niranjana Murthy

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rajarajeshwari Nagar police have arrested popular yoga guru M Niranjana Murthy, 55, founder of 'Sunshine The Yoga Zone' in west Bengaluru, for sexually assaulting a minor girl.

Murthy has been booked under sections 69 and 75(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Section 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The police said that the investigation began on August 30 when the survivor, now 19, filed a complaint. She was 17 when the alleged offence occurred. The FIR was registered immediately.

The survivor said she had known Murthy since 2019, when he was secretary-general of the Karnataka Yogasana Sports Association (KYSA). She took part in competitions from 2021.

She alleged Murthy assaulted her in 2023 during a yoga competition in Thailand. The girl later quit competing.

The FIR also stated that Murthy harassed her again in 2024 after she joined his yoga institute. She alleged he sexually assaulted her in August 2025, promising a medal and placement.

On August 22, Murthy allegedly attempted to assault her again, offering a state-level placement.

"He has been arrested. Further investigation is underway," a senior police officer said.

The institute's website describes Murthy as a PhD holder in yoga, 12-time former national team captain, and recipient of state honours, including the Life Achievement Award from the Karnataka government.

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and
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Journalism Awards for the calendar years 2017 to 2023
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PRESENTATION PROGRAMME
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Inauguration & Presentation of Awards
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Sri Rizwan Arshad
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Bengaluru Central Constituency
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Media Advisor to
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Vaddarse Raghurama Shetty
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B.M.T. Rajeev -2018
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Maltesh Angura - 2020
Sudhir Shetty - 2021
Mallikarjun Hosapalya - 2022
R. Manjunath - 2023
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Vijay Prakash starts music club in Banashankari

It will host expert-led workshops, and expand them to smaller cities and towns as well

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

Well-known playback singer Vijay Prakash has started a music club in Bengaluru. Called VP Culture Club, the centre is located in Banashankari. It will host workshops for youngsters.

The first workshop, on 'Devaranamas' (compositions of the Haridasa tradition), was held on Thursday. Prakash told *Metrolife* the response was "overwhelming".

"Everything I have today is because of music and art. I felt it was time to give back to the community. That's when my wife Mahathi (also a singer) and I decided to start a community for youngsters who are enthusiastic about learning and teaching the art," Prakash says.

The club will host music workshops across genres for groups of 15 to 20. Enrolment is mostly first-come-first-serve, though on some occasions applicants will be selected based on audio samples they submit.

"We want to keep the number of participants minimal so we can give them one-on-one attention," he says.

There are many plans in the offing. The club will extend classes to dance and other art forms, and invite experts to conduct workshops. And Prakash hopes to take these workshops to smaller towns.

"While judging 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa', I realised there is immense talent across Karnataka.

Vijay Prakash

But many don't have access to music schools or online facilities to learn. That's why I plan to hold workshops to share my experiences and what I have learned from my seniors," he explains.

At a time when artificial intelligence makes everything possible, through the club, Prakash wants to build a human-to-human connection where people meet and exchange thoughts on music and art.

"Technology is important, but art is more beautiful when shared in person," he says.

For details, write to vpculturecluB.in@gmail.com or visit @vpculturecluB on Instagram.

Shashwathi Kashyap (in red) led the inaugural workshop on Thursday.

POPCORN

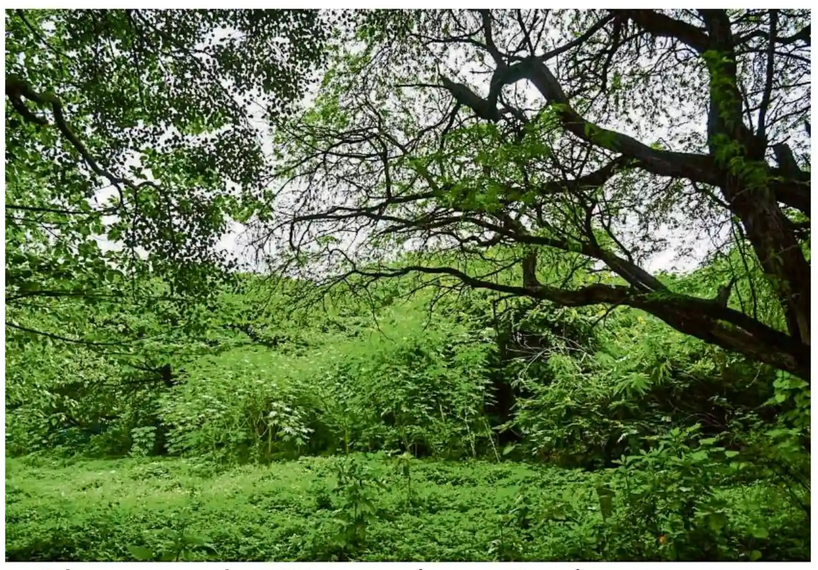
Suffer ring

Yet another CEO with a home and office on the Outer Ring Road posted on X that he was moving out because — ha, you guessed it — the traffic in Bengaluru is a nightmare. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar was unmoved, and said it wasn't right to blackmail the government. Soon enough, the CEO posted that he was just moving out of his current office and not Bengaluru. Yeah, out of Outer Wring Road. Ashte!

'B'luru cantonment biodiversity heritage site must set an example'

Citizens should be encouraged to connect with the space by adding walkways, resting spots or a museum, activists say

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

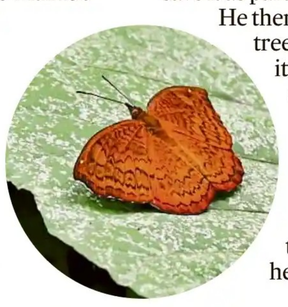


The 8.61-acre Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony green zone has 368 trees spanning over 40 species. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

The 8.61-acre green zone at the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony was declared a biodiversity heritage site last week. Activists believe having such a protected green space in the centre of the city sends out a strong message about prioritising greenery. However, it must be managed well to serve as a model, they add.

Reportedly, it is the second such site in Bengaluru. The other is the GKVK campus on Bellary Road.

The colony has 368 trees, which can be classified into roughly 44 species. Paper mulberry dominates with 180 specimens, followed by 41 mango, 27 rain trees and 11 jackfruit, according to a list placed before the Tree Expert Committee for verification. Some species appear in single numbers — cardamom, hoovarasi, neem, amla, sandal, subabul and teak. Flowering trees such as yellow trumpetbush, tabebuia rosea, gulmohar, jacaranda, champaca and African tulip exist, alongside fruiting trees like jamun, guava and pomelo. Medicinal plants include honge and drumstick.



Activists also demand a survey of the site's wildlife.

On a visit on Wednesday, Mahesh Basapur of People for Environment (Parisarakkaagi Naavu), one of the citizen groups that actively opposed tree-felling plans at the colony, pointed to a silver oak with a white cloth tied around its trunk. The cloth carried the name of someone who had pledged to save it as part of their protest campaign.

He then showed a sprawling rain tree shading a 2+1 building, its canopy stretching nearly an acre. Five names were scribbled on the ribbon around its massive girth.

For former residents, the colony is steeped in memories. N Krishnamurthy, whose family had lived here for two generations, recalls his grandfather saying a rain tree had sprouted from cow dung.

He remembers climbing a peepal tree to set up lights. It stands in the middle of a temple his grandmother started in the colony over 60 years ago. He would also sight peacocks, monkeys, snakes and mongoose frequently.

Alexander James, now an activist with the Environmental Impact Group, grew up visiting friends in the colony. He recalls playing marakoti (tree monkey game) and planting more than eight saplings with friends, including two mango trees. When he returned during the protests this summer, he was delighted to find the mango trees fruiting.

Activists say the declaration must be followed by careful management. Parashuramegowda, general secretary of People for Environment, urged forming an expert committee to guide its development. "We could grow medicinal plants and plant more saplings of endangered species. A small museum could be set up. Access to the temple can be given, but everything must be under vigilance to avoid human interference with the greenery," he said. Basapur, a techie, added that concrete packed around old trees must be removed, and plastic litter across the site needs urgent cleanup.

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi had urged Bengalureans to join the freedom struggle at the Cantonment, Vijay Nishanth of Project Vruksha Foundation, notes. "We could set up a Gandhi statue at the colony, and double the green cover to honour both its heritage and environmental aspects. The site should serve as a model for other green lungs," he said. According to Priya Chetty-Rajagopal of Heritage Beku, walking paths, signboards, QR codes on trees, or even an old railway engine could be added. James suggested carving out a small resting corner for people planning to board the train from the Cantonment Railway Station.

Karnataka Biodiversity Board, and South Western Railway could not be reached for comments on their plans.

Wishlist

These activists say Bengaluru needs more such protected green lungs to counter deteriorating air quality. They count Jnanabharathi campus, the Roerich estate, Bannerghatta National Park, Kadugodi forest, and a gundu thopu (sacred grove) near Manyata Tech Park among worthy contenders. Ecologist Harini Nagendra says that for a site to be declared a biodiversity heritage site, it must have irreplaceable ecology, unique biodiversity, and a long history and cultural significance for the community and city.

FESTIVE SEASON

TV shows, science inspire doll displays

People have also paid tribute to nature and late actor B Saroja Devi in their bombe arrangement

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

Dr Veena Ravi has about 8,000 dolls on display at her home in Gavipuram.

With Navaratri just days away, homes across Bengaluru are coming alive with colourful and creative bombe displays.

While some people are keeping it simple with their traditional pattadbombe (wooden couple dolls), others are turning to innovative themes.

Pruthvi Prabhu, a doll collector from Thygarajanagar, is following the theme of Kannada's popular sitcoms 'Silli Lalli', and 'Paapa Pandu'. "We have recreated 11 characters from 'Silli Lalli' and six characters from 'Paapa Pandu' and placed them in popular scenarios of the shows. They are all handmade," Pruthvi says. Dolls of popular actresses, including one of the late B Saroja Devi, are also part of the display.

Jakkur-based Subha Murugan's display is based on the number five. The display includes the panchaboothas or elements of nature: earth, air, water, fire and space. Five landscapes, five pandavas, and other objects related to the number are also included.

Subha says, "We started the preparations after Ganesha Chaturthi. And we are still working on it as I have around 500 dolls. Most of my dolls are sourced from Chennai, Madurai and Malleswaram."

Mythology is one of the common themes of Dasara but at Dr Veena Ravi's house in Basavanagudi, mythology meets science. The display at 'bombe mane', as it is referred to by locals, has about 8,000 dolls.

Dr Veena has combined science and 'Vishnu Purana'. The display explains popular scientific theories, such as the big bang theory, with mythological references.

"We also have depictions of mythological episodes like 'Krishna Manthana'. Totally, we have set up about 70 stages. They feature the Bhakta Prahlad story, Krishna's complete life story, and Kaliyuga. It took us two months to source and put them together," says Dr Veena.

Mother-daughter duo, Manjula and Jayagowri, have restored old dolls to add to their theme of women power.

"My daughter restored the old dolls and I have arranged a display of ashtalakshmis. We also have 7-8 pairs of pattadbombe, which are more than 150 years old," says Manjula, who lives in Gavipuram.

Durga Puja pandals honour Tagore

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Women empowerment was a popular theme at Durga Puja pandals last year.

The Bengali community in Bengaluru is giving final touches to Durga Puja celebrations they are planning to host across neighbourhoods.

In Bellandur, the Ananda Utsav pandal is paying tribute to Rabindranath Tagore. "We are recreating aspects of Tagore's ancestral home, such as decorating the mandap with alta (a traditional red dye)," says Sonia Dutta Gupta of the organising committee. "We're also using eco-friendly materials like cardboard, paper and leaves in our decorations," she adds. The celebrations will run over five days. *Schedule on @ggl_anandotsab on Instagram.*

The 15th edition of Bengali in Bangalore (BinB) Durga Puja at Chandrodaya Convention Centre, Dairy Circle, will also honour Tagore. Their pandal references Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the ancestral home of the Tagore family in north Kolkata. It will feature hand-painted Pattachitra panels, alpona-decorated kulo (a bamboo or cane tray used as a winnowing fan) and hath pakha (a bamboo or palm-leaf hand fan). Cultural events on their roster include 'Rabir Aloya Noye Ananya', a dance-drama, and music performances by local Bengalis. Children will compete in a 'Best Traditional Attire' walk, and the navami night will feature dandiya. *September 28 to October 2. Details on @bengali_in_bangalore_binb on Instagram.*

The Bengalee Association, one of the city's oldest Bengali cultural bodies, is marking its 75th year with a traditional celebration at its Assaye Road centre. The theme, 'Shubho Moja Rajbari Durga Puja', is inspired by centuries-old Durga Puja practices and makes use of clay idols, natural dyes and eco-friendly fabrics. "We are inviting underprivileged children to join the festivities," says Sujoy Upadhyay from the association. *September 27 to October 2. Details on @bengaleeassociation on Instagram.*

Fan clubs are helping people cope with mental health woes

Members are turning to these groups for emotional support and to overcome loneliness

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Pearly Ann Jacob hosted a friendship bracelet-making workshop for Taylor Swift fans in the city. It is a popular activity of the singer's fan clubs globally.

Celebrity- and sports-based fan clubs in Bengaluru are serving an unexpected purpose, members say. The heightened awareness around mental health has led to members using these spaces as a source of emotional support.

Therapist Maullika Sharma notes that the pandemic and resultant work-from-home culture have contributed to growing loneliness among city folk. "Dr Vivek Murthy, former surgeon general of the United States of America, stated last year that loneliness is slowly becoming the next big public health challenge," she tells *Metrolife*.

Musical connection

Pearly Ann Jacob, who runs a Taylor Swift Fan page on Instagram (@swiftverse), organises events for fans of the American singer. They include parties and workshops. "We have organised 9-10 parties in the last two years," she says. She is one among a number of others who host events in honour of the artiste. There is no official fan club, but most of the events draw regulars. "Before I started hosting these events, I did not have confidence in myself. Meeting like-minded people has pulled me out of some tough times," Pearly shares.

One of the members was new to the city and was ostracised at work. She found it difficult to make friends. "She came to one of our events, made some good friends and is in a much better place mentally," she says.

Another fan, from the LGBTQIA+ community, was facing problems at college and home, due to his sexual identity. Being a part of the community has given the 24-year-old a safe space.

Community painting

The West Block Blues (@westblockblues on Instagram), the fan club of Bangalore Football Club, has close to 40,000 followers. "We started with less than 1,000 fans when the core members were college students," says Ajith Harish, one of the core members. The club, started in 2013, organises 5- or 7-a-side tournaments for members and banner painting sessions before the team's big games.

College students and working professionals who have just moved to the city say that the group has helped them overcome loneliness and depression. "For a few hours, we forget our worries," he adds. Members who work in HR or IT have also helped other members find jobs.

Social welfare

Started in 2012, the Karnataka State Rajinikanth Fans Association has 600 active members and about 2,000 in total. Tree plantation drives, blood donation camps, health awareness workshops, and visits to orphanages are some activities they organise regularly. "I joined the club 10 years ago because of the meaningful work they do," says Vijay Kumar. Helping less fortunate people gives one a sense of purpose and relieves stress for those with a busy work schedule, adds the 39-year-old, who is based in Halasuru.

Humans are wired for connection, so when one is in a new city with no friends or misses out on interacting with people at the office, such groups are the answer, Maullika points out.

EVENTS

Instrumental music
The Candlelight Concert series, presented by Fever, will feature the music of Queen, ABBA, Coldplay and Ed Sheeran over two shows on September 20 at Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwanthpur. Details and tickets on liveyourcity.com.

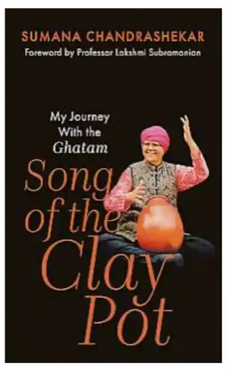
Talk on sarees
Stories about the evolution of sarees and India's diverse weaving traditions will be the focus of the 'Seere Talks Master Class — Bharat's 9-Yard Story', on September 20, at 9 am, at The Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi. Call 83108 68579.

Sports play
'Tiki-Taka', a play on football and the ethics of sportsmanship, will be staged on September 20, at 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Culture
Azim Premji Foundation is organising 'Arivaame' to celebrate Kodava Sahitya Day on September 20, 5 pm at the Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala. RSVP on indianheritageacademy.org.

First-ever book on ghatam set for launch on Sunday

S R RAMAKRISHNA
TEAM METROLIFE



The book throws light on the central role of the potters who make the ghatam.

Bengalurean musician Sumana Chandrashekar has written the first-ever book on the ghatam, and it is slated for launch on Sunday.

The ghatam is a clay pot used extensively in Indian folk music, and it holds a special place in Karnatik classical music.

The book, titled 'Song of the Clay Pot', explores hitherto unexplored themes, such as the central role of the potters who make the ghatam. "It is also a memoir with meta things and micro details," says Sumana.

Sumana has been performing for 15 years, and questions many conventions, including the one that relegates the instrument to the position of an upa pakka vadya (sub-accompanying instrument), pushed to the back of the semi-circle that accommodates other musicians on stage. Her guru Sukanya Ramgopal was the first woman to pick up the instrument, despite all the discouragement, and Sumana was her only female student for many years. Both adore Vikku Vinayakram, whom Sumana describes as the 'god of ghatam'.

Devanahalli, where the Bengaluru airport now stands, was one of the three major centres of ghatam making in south India, but indiscriminate urbanisation has nearly killed the tradition, says Sumana, whose book is published by Speaking Tiger.

She will be in conversation with writer-activist Arundhati Ghosh at the event.

Launch on September 21, 11 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.

Promotion: Senior IPS officer Alok Kumar moves CAT

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Karnataka IPS officer Alok Kumar has moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) seeking his pending promotion.

Alok Kumar

"Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction commanding the respondents to consider the applicant's promotion to the next higher rank in accordance with the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) made in the years 2023 and 2024, without any further delay," his petition seeking relief said.

Kumar, an Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), is a 1994-batch officer from the Karnataka cadre.

Interestingly, on September 12, the state government had passed orders promoting Umesh Kumar and Arun Chakaravarthy to the rank of Director General of Police (DGP). Both officers are from the 1995 batch and Kumar's juniors.

In its order, dated September 18, the CAT stayed the promotion order. "Having found a prima facie case, we deem it appropriate to stay the order, dated September 12, 2025 (Annexure-A1) till the next date of hearing," the order said, posting the matter to October 23.

In May, this year, Kumar was issued a notice seeking to revive the departmental inquiry concerning the 2019 alleged audio leak case. CAT had stayed the notice after Kumar had submitted that in 2023, the state government had decided not to proceed further with the departmental inquiry, and the CBI also had filed a B Closure Report.

Cabinet mandates training for group 'A' ,'B' staff for promotions

Objections invited for new Karnataka Civil Services Rules

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The state Cabinet on Thursday decided to make it compulsory for Groups A and B government employees to take part in mid-career training programmes to be eligible for promotions.

Addressing reporters after the Cabinet, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "There are mid-career training programmes for IAS, IPS, IFS officers and so on at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. All state employees (Groups A and B) will have to undergo compulsory training."

The Cabinet has framed new rules for the Karnataka State Civil Services and urged the concerned to file objections within 15 days. In case the objections are not received, the Cabinet has decided to approve the new rules.

The Cabinet also gave administrative approval to development activities at the Vijayapura Greenfield airport at a cost of Rs 618.75 crore. Patil explained that Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh had been asked in the previous Cabinet meeting to study and place this issue.

While the basic cost of the project was Rs 347.92 crore, an additional expense of Rs 270.9 crore is being incurred now.

"The airport is being developed in such a way that big planes can land here instead of ATR. The environmental concerns have been reviewed," the minister added.

It was also decided to approve Rs 21.55 crore to provide new cooking utensils (stainless steel, gas stove, LPG cylinders and so on), ingredients and milk (Ksheera Bhagya) under the midday meal scheme.

The Cabinet also decided to provide Groups 'C' and 'D' jobs on compassionate grounds for the family members of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) who died due to atrocities. The Cabinet allotted 0.14 acre of land for the Congress Bhavan at Kukkundur village, in Karkala taluk, Udupi.

Ex-MUDA commissioner instrumental in illegal allotment of sites, says ED

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said ex-MUDA commissioner G T Dinesh Kumar played an instrumental role in illegal allotment of compensation sites to ineligible entities and individuals.

Kumar is in ED custody for nine days after his arrest on Wednesday.

"The evidences and documents collected during the course of investigation indicates active involvement of Dinesh Kumar in the comprehensive money laundering scheme perpetrated at MUDA, Mysuru, during his tenure as commissioner," the ED said.

ED initiated investigation based on an FIR registered by the Lokayukta police in 2024, on allegations of large scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites. "ED investigation revealed a large scale scam in allotment of MUDA sites by flouting various statutes and government orders/guidelines and by other fraudulent means. The role of Dinesh Kumar has emerged as instrumental in illegal allotment of compensation sites to ineligible entities/individuals".

"The evidences with respect to obtaining bribe for making illegal allotments in the form of cash, bank transfer, movable/immovable properties have been gathered during investigation," the agency said in the statement.

The modus operandi for making illegal allotment involved identification of ineligible beneficiaries and making allotment using fake documents or incomplete documents in direct violation of government orders and also backdating of allotment letters in some cases, the probe found.

"The gratification received for making these illegal allotments was routed through a co-operative society and bank accounts of relatives/associates of Dinesh Kumar, who played key role in allotment process. The gratification, thus received, was further used to purchase some of these illegally allotted MUDA sites in the names of Dinesh Kumar's relatives," the agency said.

ED has already attached 252 illegally allotted MUDA sites so far, having a market value of approximately Rs 400 crore. Further investigation is on.

Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka extended to seniors 70 and above

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The Karnataka government has extended the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (ABArK) Scheme to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, in accordance with the Government of India's Vayo Vandana Yojana guideline. The new order also applies to beneficiaries of the Employee's State Insurance Scheme (ESIS).

The Cabinet's decision aims to extend the benefits of the existing ABArK scheme to senior citizens, irrespective of their economic status, subject to the condition that they should not be getting free healthcare under any other government scheme except that for ESIS.

In Karnataka, the number of senior citizens aged 70 and above is estimated to be approximately 25 lakh families and 33.4 lakh individuals, of which about 8.24 lakh families and 9.13 lakh individuals are enrolled in the PM-JAY database.

The scheme beneficiaries have been divided into two types — senior citizens from families who are already covered under the Ayushman Bharat Pradham Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) scheme, aka existing families, and those who are not currently covered under the AB PM-JAY scheme, aka new families.

For senior citizens aged 70 and above in existing families, an additional shared top-up cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year will be provided.

This top-up will be provided for the treatment of senior citizens in the family in case the other members have utilised part or all of the original family wallet. In case the senior citizens utilise the full or part of the original family wallet of Rs 5 lakh, the other members of the family shall be provided a top-up covering up to Rs 5 lakh.

However, the rules are slightly different for senior citizens in "new families". For these senior citizens, a shared cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per year will be available. This cover will not be available to the other family members.

Other eligibility criteria include a mandatory Aadhaar-based e-KYC process and a formal declaration that the concerned senior citizen is not receiving free healthcare services under any other scheme, partially or fully funded, by the Government of India or a State Government. The beneficiary's state will be determined based on the state mentioned in their Aadhaar.

Registration

To access the ABArK scheme, a separator section has been created in the Ayushman mobile application and in the beneficiary.nha.gov.in web portal. The Ayushman card will be issued to all eligible senior citizens for both existing and new families.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. Tele_CCTV_9GoodsShed_SBC, Dated : 12.09.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
SWR - Bengaluru Division - Provision of CCTV at Goods Shed of Nelamangala, Bangarapet, Devangonthi, Maddur, Mandya, Settihalli, Dodballapur, Kyatsandra Goods Terminal and Penukonda (09) Stations.	Rs. 1,23,62,449.56

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 03-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Bengaluru

PUB/474/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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PROVISION OF CYBER SECURITY AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: TRD/LMG/17 of 2025-26 Dated: 12-09-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.: EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD33R Dated: 12-09-2025. Name of work:** Provision of Cyber Security in existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) under used at RCC/Lumding for Lumding-Furkating Jn. Section under Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,41,03,110/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,20,500/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: upto 15:00** hrs. of **07-10-2025.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DEE Traction Distribution & Gati Shakti, Lumding

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For GSD-New Jalpaiguri

SN	Month	Date Fixed
1	October' 2025	14-10-2025 & 29-10-2025

For Alipurduar Division

SN	Month	Date Fixed
1	October' 2025	14-10-2025 & 29-10-2025

For Katihar Division

SN	Month	Date Fixed
1	October' 2025	14-10-2025 & 29-10-2025

Interested bidders may participate in E-auction through IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Material Manager/ New Jalpaiguri

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S AND T WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF LED VIDEO WALL

Tender Notice No: 08 of 2025-26. Open E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **E-Tender No.** N-2025-26-08-Dy.CSTE-NW; **Name of work:** S and T work in connection with provision of LED Video wall at NFRSA Indoor Stadium, Maligaon. **Tender Value:** ₹1,09,13,252/-; **Bid Security:** ₹2,04,600/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs. on 06-10-2025 and **opened at** 15:30 hrs on 06-10-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Network, Maligaon

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STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/66/013/25-26, Dtd: 11-09-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : NJ255189;

Closing/Opening Date: 03-10-2025.

Brief Description: Provision of Complete Traction Motor (6FRA6068) for 3-phase electric locomotive, Specification No. 4TMS.096.081 Alt Latest and STR No. CLW/2008/3PHTM/STR/0001 Alt2 or latest. Consignee:- SSE/IC/MECH/Siliguri Jn., N.F. Railway. **Quantity**: 06 Nos.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (**www.ireps.gov.in**) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. Chief Material Manager, New Jalpaiguri

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E-Tender Notice No.: 07/RWP/Engg/2025-26/WT/(Open) Date 16.09.2025. The Dy. CE/RWP/Bela for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Online **"e-Open Tender"** through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for the following works as detailed:- **Name of the Work and Location, Approximate Cost, Earnest Money and Completion Period of the Work: Tender No.**:- 13_RWP_Engg_25_26_WT_Open **Name of Work:-** Additional scrap preconditioning bay at RWP/Bela. **Approximate Cost:** Rs. 8,26,93,305/- **Tender Form Cost**: Nil **Earnest Money**: Rs. 5,63,500/- **Completion Period of the Work:** 09 Months. **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 08.10.2025 upto 14:30 Hrs. **Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be obtained and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** The above tender can be submitted only by the date and time as mentioned in the notice. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal **(www.ireps.gov.in)** for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

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RGUHS puts plan to introduce AI in evaluation on hold

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) which was planning to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the evaluation system, has decided to keep it on hold for now. Considering the fact that evaluation through AI was not 100% accurate, the university has decided not to take a risk.

Confirming this to *DH*, Dr Bhagawan B C, vice-chancellor of RGUHS, said, "We are not implementing AI any time soon. It has to be studied and experimented with more as evaluation is a very important process".

As per details available, the varsity did a trial run by assigning AI to evaluate already-evaluated answer scripts.

"Though there is not much difference between evaluation by AI and by faculty members, we wanted to ensure 100% accuracy," university sources said.

RGUHS deals with around 25 lakh answer scripts every year.

"In the present system itself, some students approach court, challenging the evaluation. When this is the case, we don't think AI is an option for evaluation," said a senior member of the university's senate.

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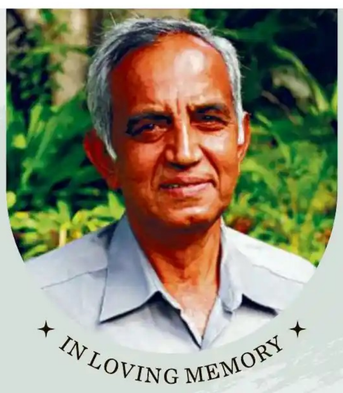

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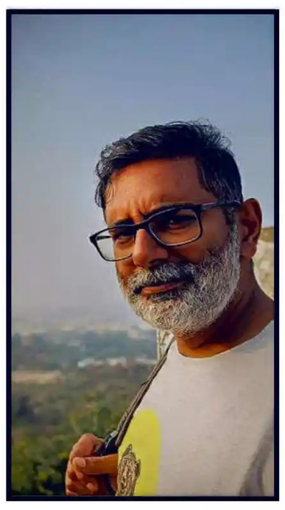

Venky was a beloved father, husband, uncle, brother and son. He was a cherished and loyal friend, an inspiring teacher, and a humble, fiercely egalitarian colleague. We will miss his gentleness and generosity, and the laughter he brought to our lives.

Sarayu & Maitri
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Shabari & Lakshman
Nidhi & Mukund

Parents shun state board schools for kids; enrolment dips by 5L this year

They prefer 'quality education' in other boards: Experts

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Schools affiliated to state-prescribed syllabus, including those run by government, private and aided ones, have witnessed a drastic dip in admissions for classes 1 to 10 in the 2025-26 academic year.

The number of students admitted this year is around 5 lakh lower than last year.

State-run schools have witnessed the highest decline of 2.54 lakh, followed by 1.7 lakh at private ones and 77,000 at private (aided) schools.

According to sources, admissions witnessed a major variation at class 1 level.

"This is mainly because of the non-availability of children below 6 years of age due to a decline in birth rate," said an official from the department of school education and literacy.

But experts are of the opinion that the children are migrating from state schools to CBSE and ICSE boards.

"Reduction in children's population is a general thing. But here, the reason for the decline in numbers is migration to other boards. When it comes to state board, a majority are government-run schools and students withdrawing admissions from government schools matters a lot," said V P Niranjanaradhya, development educationist.

He said parents were losing hopes on government schools. "The government thinks it can attract admissions by giving freebies like shoes, uniforms and mid-day meals alone. But in reality parents look at quality education. The process of education at CBSE and ICSE is a continuous one. Other board schools have regular teachers and those teachers will not be sent on survey works, like in the case of government school teachers, which distracts academic activity for more than three months in a year. While enrolling children, parents consider all these factors," he said.

State-run schools have witnessed the highest decline of 2.54 lakh, followed by 1.7 lakh at private ones and 77,000 at private (aided) schools. DH FILE PHOTO

As per the academic calendar of the department, admissions for the current year officially got over on July 31, with 99,47,261 students enrolling as against 1.4 crore in 2024-25 and 1.5 crore in 2023-24. However, government schools allow admissions throughout the year.

The recently released UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education) report for 2024-25 of the union government highlighted the drop in admissions from pre-primary to class 12 at state board schools.

As stated in the report, the enrolment of children in 2024-25 was 1,17,80,251 against 1,19,26,303 in 2023-24.

Official's take

"It is the result of a combination of factors like less population (declining birth rate), migration to other boards, etc... To address such issues, we are focusing more on learning-based assessment to improve quality at our schools. With Karnataka Public Schools and two-language policy, we are hoping to attract more enrolments in coming years," Dr Trilok Chandra K V, commissioner of department of school education, told *DH*.

Valmiki meet witnesses stormy scenes in Harihar

HARIHAR (DAVANGERE DIST), DHNS

A meeting convened at Rajanahalli Maharshi Valmiki Gurupeeth on Thursday to clear doubts over nomenclature, religious states and sub-caste to be registered during caste survey, witnessed stormy scenes after BJP ST Morcha president Bangaru Hanumanth attacked Congress party over 'targeting' Valmiki leaders.

The Valmiki community leaders across party lines had arrived from various districts to attend the meeting ahead of the caste survey. Addressing the meeting, Bangaru Hanumanth launched a scathing attack on the Congress party accusing it of illegally transferring the Valmiki Corporation funds for election expenses of a neighbouring state and making the community leader K N Nagendra a scapegoat, sacking another community leader K N Rajanna from the Cabinet for speaking out truth. He also mentioned MLC H Vishwanath's attack on Siddaramaiah.

This angered Bellary MP E Tukaram and other Congress leaders, who barged onto the stage. Tukaram said this is not the platform to indulge in politics. Supporters of Hanumant also rushed to the stage. The warring parties almost came to blows even as a small number of policemen struggled to bring the situation under control.

At this juncture, Prasannananda Swami intervened and brought sanity to the proceedings.

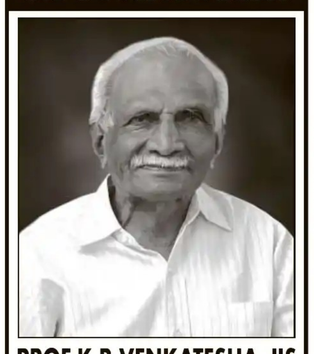
The meeting passed three resolutions - The community members were urged to register their caste as Nayak and sub-caste as Nayak-Valmiki, Nayak-Talawar, Nayak-Parivar, Bedar and other alternative names should be tagged with Nayak.

The meeting condemned the state government's move to include other castes into the ST list. The community members warned of a severe protest if the government goes ahead with its plan to add other castes in the ST list.

The meeting urged the state government to take steps to curb fake SC/ST caste certificates.

Seers intervene to pacify Bellary MP E Tukaram and BJP ST Morcha president Bangaru Hanumant and their supporters during a meeting convened to clear doubts on the caste survey, at Rajanahalli Maharshi Valmiki Gurupeeth in Harihar taluk on Thursday.

In Memoriam



PROF.K.R.VENKATESHA, IIS
President KPAMRC

Fondly remembered on his one year Vaikuntha Samaradhne as a devoted family man and a person of remarkable capability.
We miss his humor, banter and engaging personality.

Grieving wife, son and family

PAT on back for S&T dept's vision: Telescope workshops for teachers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The science and technology department will soon organise workshops for teachers in residential government schools as part of the Provide Access to Telescopes (PAT) flagship programme. Workshops in Bengaluru are expected to commence in a month.

As a part of the programme, the department is in the process of distributing telescopes to 833 residential government schools.

To ensure that the equipment is used to its full potential, the department will conduct the training workshops in collaboration with Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, covering both classroom & night-sky observation sessions.

The workshops will span over 20 hours, including modules on telescope basics, sky mapping, safety, maintenance and forming astronomy clubs in schools.

The workshops are set to be organised in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Bagalkot, Tumakuru, Karwar, Bidar, Raichur, Koppal and Hosapete. The workshops will take place in batches of 60-70 teachers.

Post-training, teachers can conduct live telescope demonstrations for students to show planets, stars, the Moon and other celestial objects. DH FILE PHOTO

Astronomical calendar

At the training sessions, teachers will be provided with a manual on how to read the astronomical calendar and plan school events around the same time, Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju told *DH*.

"Instead of just theoretical teaching, teachers can conduct live telescope demonstrations to show planets, stars, the Moon, and other celestial objects. Teachers can organise observation sessions during class hours or after school, where students learn to align, focus and interpret telescope views," the minister said, adding that he had plans to expand the programme to high schools.

The workshops in Bengaluru will take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium.

"Given the weather in Bengaluru, conducting the workshops in early October seems unlikely, as we need clear skies to conduct outdoor sessions. In the meantime, we're in the process of creating an informative module," said B R Guruprasad, director of the planetarium.

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KRISHNAPPA PURUSHOTHAMA REDDY #1208, 9th Main, AECS Layout A Block, Singasandra, Bengaluru-68, have changed my name to K PURUSHOTHAM REDDY vide affidavit dated- 17/08/2025

I, DHARSHINI, residing at Bengaluru-68, have changed my name as DHARSHINI. S, vide affidavit dated 18/09/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Gondamgere Singrappa Nagamani,** W/o M. Narayana Murthy, residing at No. 114, 5th Cross, Chinnayanapallya, Adugodi Post, Bengaluru-30, have changed my name to **S. NAGAMANI** vide affidavit dated 18.09.2025 before notary S Jayanth, Bengaluru.

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Govt rejigs state organ transplant organisation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Wednesday ordered reorganising the State Organ Transplantation and Tissue Organisation (SOTTO) committee at Victoria Hospital.

The new team will be headed by Dr M Shivalingaiah, Director of Institute of Nephro Urology.

The committee is composed of specialists, including cardiologists, gynaecologists and community medicine specialists.

The team also comprises retired high court judge Justice C R Kumaraswamy and officials from the Health Department.

The SOTTO is responsible for carrying out organ and tissue donation and transplantation data, maintaining waiting lists and conducting organ donation awareness programmes to increase the number of donors.

Aland MLA claims conspiracy to defeat him in 2023 polls

'RO ordered status quo on voter deletion pleas or I would've lost'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress' Aland MLA B R Patil on Thursday claimed that a conspiracy had been hatched to defeat him by targeted deletion of minority, SC and backward caste votes during the 2023 Assembly elections.

The MLA claimed that a request under Form-7 of the Election Commission was sent by someone to delete voters.

"After this, the returning officer carried out a verification to find out any discrepancy or confusion. The officer ordered a status quo. If the status quo was not maintained and 6,994 votes were deleted, I would have lost the election. This is a big issue," Patil told reporters here.

The MLA had won the election by a margin of over 10,000 votes. He said the request was made to delete "my voters in my constituency and not other voters".

"The attack was made on my workers and my supporters in the area where I had a stronghold. Most of the targets were those of minorities, scheduled caste and backward castes – the Congress vote bank," the MLA said.

Patil said if a thorough investigation was carried out, more details would come out. "But the investigation is not happening".

He claimed that there is evidence available since the complainant is the returning officer himself, and based on his complaint, an FIR was registered.

The returning officer is part of the election commission. He has to answer to the complaint lodged by him, the legislator said.

"Since the Election Commission of India is not replying, it raises doubts that they are also at fault. Who is behind it, whose conspiracy is it? It must be investigated," the MLA said.

All available info shared, says CEO

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V Anbukumar on Thursday said "all available information" was provided to the Kalaburagi superintendent of police in September 2023, in connection with 'unauthorised attempts to delete voters in Aland segment', reports dhns from Bengaluru.

In December 2022, Anbukumar said, 6,018 applications in Form-7 seeking deletion of voters were received.

Suspecting the genuineness of these applications, a verification was done, and it was found that only 24 of them were correct. The concerned electoral registration officers (EROs) lodged an FIR in February 2023.

Anbukumar said the necessary information was shared with the investigators.

"The shared information includes objector's details, including Form Reference Number, name of objector, his EPIC number and mobile number used for log-in and mobile number provided by objector for processing, software application medium, IP address, applicant's place, form submission date and time, and user creation date," Anbukumar said in a statement.

"After this, meetings were conducted by CEO with the investigating officer and cyber security experts of police to review progress of investigation," it read.

Ponnanna slams ECI, questions integrity of electoral process

'Some large corporations now exert influence over news outlets'

BENGALURU, DHNS

MLA and CM's legal advisor Ponnanna (centre) during a media interaction in Bengaluru on Thursday.

MLA and legal advisor to chief minister A S Ponnanna has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the electoral process, while citing alleged discrepancies in voter lists and questioning the impartiality of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

He was speaking to reporters at the Press Club here on Thursday. Ponnanna also touched upon the role of the judiciary and media in a democracy. He pointed to a specific instance in Maharashtra where he claimed the voter count rose by five lakh in a span of a few months, calling it "impossible."

The Virajpet MLA argued that the ECI's actions had created a perception that it was being influenced by the central government and other forces to manipulate electoral lists for the benefit of certain parties.

He flayed the ECI for being defensive and failing to address discrepancies highlighted by the Opposition. Ponnanna said ECI was a constitutional body that must act independently and impartially, especially when discrepancies like the alleged shifting of 65 lakh voters in Karnataka are brought to its notice.

He highlighted how a few powerful corporate entities, like Adani Group, could be shaping narratives and affecting legal outcomes.

He pointed to a specific case where a lower court allegedly issued a "gag order" against a simple individual's business, something he claimed was unprecedented even during the Emergency. The MLA said the action, which seemed to benefit a major corporate player, was a good example of how powerful interests can manipulate legal processes.

The MLA also tied this issue to the media, arguing some large corporations now exert influence over news outlets.

He said a "fundamental right of freedom of speech can't be above freedom of life," & that media's power to damage an individual's reputation needs to be balanced. He proposed a "consultative process" involving media professionals & press clubs to create a mechanism that ensures journalistic freedom & protection for individuals. This, he said, would help prevent spread of misinformation & reputational damage.

D'sthala case: HC directs petitioners to submit independent info

BENGALURU, DHNS

The SIT probing the alleged mass burial in Dharmasthala on informed the High Court on Thursday that the plea for further excavations made by two petitioners is based on information provided by original complainant, who is accused in perjury proceedings. Special Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesha submitted that the original informant is still under witness protection and the SIT is investigating a conspiracy angle.

The court was hearing the petition filed by Purandara Gowda and Tukaram Gowda, residents of Dharmasthala. The petitioners have sought directions to SIT for further excavation of locations identified by them in their presence. They also requested the court to appoint a court commissioner - such as Registrar (Judicial) or a retired district judge - to accompany them to the sites and to submit a factual report on the visible state of affairs to the court.

Senior Counsel Deepak Khosla, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that based on their discussion with the original informant, they had visited the sites and found that his information was true.

On the other hand, the Special Public Prosecutor submitted that the original complainant has been arrested and the two bodies recovered during investigation were not found to be of females. "Our investigation is that the original complainant is lying. Because he is given witness protection, he is constantly being monitored along with a stream of lawyers, and a conspiracy angle is to be unearthed now," Jagadeesha said.

Responding to the prayer in the petition, Justice M Nagaprasanna orally observed that if the relief is granted, it will lead to opening a Pandora's Box where more people can come to court with claims of seeing bodies and seek investigation.

The court adjourned the hearing to September 26 while directing the petitioners to place on record any independent information about the burial of bodies.

Seven skulls, many bones found by SIT after two-day search

MANGALURU, DHNS: The SIT has collected seven skulls and many bones at the end of two-day search at Banglegudde at Dharmasthala on Thursday.

The seized skulls and bones, after mahazar, will be handed over to the local police for registering a case, SIT sources said.

On Wednesday, five skulls and many bones were found scattered across the area. According to SIT sources, small bones, bottles, rope pieces and ID cards were found scattered, while clothes were found hanging from branches.

"The seized items were later handed over to police," SIT sources told *DH*. An unnatural death case is registered, while the skeletal remains will be sent to Forensic Science Lab for examination, they said.

A senior SIT official said hundreds of identity cards were found in the area, making it difficult to establish a direct link between the cards and skeletons.

"One of the cards had mentioned the name Ayyappa, of Shettigeri in Kodagu district. Ayyappa had gone missing after leaving home to get medical treatment in Mysuru. His family had lodged a missing complaint at Kattu police station. But his whereabouts had remained a mystery then. "At Netravathy bathing ghat, many people lose ID cards. So, it is too early to confirm identities," sources said.

The complainant witness Chinnaiah was produced before the Belthangady court. But his statements were not recorded. The next hearing was posted to September 23.

Residents of Dharmasthala have filed a complaint with the SIT, accusing Vittal Gowda, uncle of Sowjanya, of misleading probe team. Residents, in their complaint, said Vittal, after being interrogated by SIT, had uploaded a video clip on social media declaring that many skeletal remains were found scattered in Banglegudda.

Advocate and CPI(M) leader B M Bhat filed a complaint before SIT, that the staff in the temple, including lodges, should be interrogated.

Ministry of Culture
Government of India
Commemorating 150 Years of SARDAR PATEL 2024-2026
Envision & creatively express your dream of Viksit Bharat
The Ministry of Culture is inviting artists to participate in the ongoing nationwide
SEWA PARV ARTIST CAMPS!
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Service is the resolve, India First the inspiration...75 years
At 75 locations across India
Till 2nd October, 2025
Participant Categories:
• Artists
• College Students
• School Children
Top 3 winners at each camp will have the chance to win exciting prizes!
To check the artist camp locations in your city & upload your individual entries, SCAN
Let us unite in this celebration of creativity and showcase our unique vision for a developed India.
To get featured on the Ministry of Culture's Social Media, upload your artworks on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' with #SewaParv
ENTRY IS FREE FOR ALL!
CBC 09101/13/0022/2526

US tariffs on India may be cut...

Tariffs, from Page 1

At present, the 50% tariff imposed by the US on Indian goods is among the highest. This has made the Indian goods uncompetitive in the American market, badly hitting exporters, especially in labour-intensive sectors like textiles and gems and jewellery.

The US tariffs include 25% so-called reciprocal tariff and 25% additional tariff as penalty for New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil. "I do believe that the penal tariffs will not be there beyond November 30," Nageswaran said.

However, he clarified that his statements were not "based on any concrete indicator or evidence". "It is my hope that, given the recent developments, I do believe there will be a resolution in the next couple of months on the penal tariff and hopefully, reciprocal tariff also," he remarked. The hope of an India-US trade deal and the reduction in interest rate by the US Federal Reserve have boosted investor sentiments. The Indian stock markets' key indices jumped for the third consecutive day on Thursday with the 30-stock Sensex closing 320 points higher while Nifty gained 93 points.

Saudi-Pak pact to help each other...

Saudi-Pak pact, from Page 1

The Modi government played it down, stating the agreement had just formalised a long-standing understanding between the two nations. India was aware that such an agreement had been "under consideration", MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday.

Riyadh's pledge to help Islamabad respond to any external aggression, however, has prompted Delhi to study the implications of the agreement for India's national security as well as for regional and global stability.

"The government remains committed to protecting India's national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains," the MEA spokesperson said.

The agreement will allow Saudi Arabia to use nuclear arsenal of Pakistan as an insurance for itself, in addition to helping the kingdom project its power in the changing geopolitics.

The Riyadh-Islamabad deal came just about four months after the India-Pakistan cross-border military flare-up between May 7 and 10.

Modi was on a tour to Jeddah on April 22 when a gang of terrorists killed 26 people near Pahalgam.

The prime minister had met MBS before cutting short his visit and returning to New Delhi. The Crown Prince had joined Modi in condemning the terrorist attack.

BJP session discusses lack of cohesion in state unit

Ravi Kumar flays caste nomenclatures for converts

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The BJP state unit's two-day Chintana-Manthana, a brainstorming and introspection session, began here on Thursday.

The session is set to chart a roadmap for the party's future in the state, while reinforcing organisational discipline.

The state unit of the party is grappling with leadership issues and gaps in coordination among leaders. There are also reports of indiscipline among top leaders.

The lack of coordination between BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka has led to internal disagreements, making it difficult for the party to act as a strong opposition to the Congress government.

The BJP's inability to formulate strong and cohesive protests against the Congress government has raised concerns within party ranks. The meeting was held to iron out the differences in the top rungs of the state unit.

Senior leaders, including Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and state BJP incharge Dr Radha Mohan Das Agarwal spoke at length on these issues on day one of the camp.

As the Congress government nears the halfway mark, BJP leaders were told to focus on preparing the party for a vigorous political fight over the reminder of the term.

Senior leaders discussed measures on how the party can recover lost ground by improving the party structure, galvanising the cadre for elections and providing ideological training to them.

The camp gains significance as it the 100th anniversary of the RSS, BJP's ideological mentor, is just a few weeks away.

Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N Ravi Kumar told reporters that the camp would primarily discuss the 'failures' of the Congress government. The issue of 'One Nation, One Election' would also be deliberated upon.

Kumar criticised the government's decision to conduct a fresh caste census, urging its postponement due to questionable necessity and massive costs.

He cited the Kantharaju Commission (Rs 165 crore) and the Nagamohan Das Commission (Rs 120 crore) as examples of failed exercises. Kumar said the fresh exercise was likely to cost Rs 420 crore, calling it "wasteful expenditure".

Kumar expressed concern over how converted Christians were being classified in the proposed caste survey.

He questioned the use of terms like 'Lingayat Christian' and 'Brahmin Christian,' saying it seems like an attempt to create new caste identities and promote religious conversions in the name of social classification. Former chief ministers B S Yediyurappa and D V Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister V Somanna, Leader of the Opposition Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and others were present.

SC to hear plea today against Banu Mushtaq inaugurating Dasara

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine on September 19 (Friday) a plea challenging the Karnataka High Court's decision upholding the government's invite to Booker prize winner Banu Mushtaq as chief guest for inauguration Mysuru Dasara.

On a plea by advocate Sughosh Subramanyam for urgent hearing, a bench led by the Chief Justice of India B R Gavai decided to schedule the matter for consideration on Friday. The counsel also submitted that the Agra Puja is scheduled on Monday.

According to SC causelist, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta would take up the petition filed by H S Gaurav, a Bengaluru resident.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, Karnataka's Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty and advocate D L Chidananda are likely to appear for the government.

The High Court had on September 15, 2025 rejected the plea against the decision of the government.

The plea contended that the involvement of a non-Hindu in rituals such as deepa lighting, puja, and pushparchane at Chamundeshwari temple infringed upon Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, hurt Hindu sentiments and threatened the religious sanctity of the event.

It claimed that the HC erroneously held that no legal or constitutional right of the petitioners was being violated by extending the invitation to Mushtaq to inaugurate the state-sponsored Dasara festivities and participation of a person practising a particular faith or religion, in celebrations of festivals of other religion does not offend rights available under the Constitution.

The inauguration on the premises of Goddess Chamundeshwari temple involves a puja to be performed, which must be as per Hindu rituals.

Mushtaq belongs to Muslim community and therefore a non-Hindu. As such, she cannot perform rituals before the deity, which is against established Hindu religious and ceremonial practices, the petition said.

The performance of puja by a Hindu dignitary is an essential religious practice protected under Article 25. "Hence, state interference by altering this practice amounts to violation of fundamental rights of Hindus," it said.

While the state may support cultural celebrations, it cannot alter or dilute the inherently religious character of a Hindu festival rooted in temple and Agamic traditions," the plea said. It maintained inaugurating a Hindu religious festival inside the premises of a Hindu temple is not a secular activity.

HC had dismissed 3 PILs

On Monday, the High Court had dismissed three PILs challenging the decision of the government. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi refused to entertain the petitions.

The petitions were filed by former BJP MP Prathap Simha, T Girish Kumar and H S Gaurav, both residents of Bengaluru.

Swollen Bhima submerges bridges, crops in Kalaburagi

KALABURGI, DHNS

Incessant showers coupled with heavy discharges from three Maharashtra dams have submerged the Devalaganagapur and Ghattarga bridges, cutting off the road link to scores of villages in Kalaburagi district.

The Sonna barrage in Afzalpur taluk has clocked as much as 1.5 lakh cusec of water following heavy discharges from Ujani, Veer and Sina reservoirs in Maharashtra. The same amount of water is being released into Bhima river from Sonna barrage. The Devalaganagapur and Ghattarga bridges and Yellammadevi temple at Mannur have been completely submerged.

The swollen Bhima river has flooded standing sugarcane, tur, cotton, maize, groundnut and sunflower crops on vast tracts of land at Sheshagiri, Mannur, Kudaganur, Udachan, Hiriyal and several other villages.

The vehicular movement Sumbad-Hangarga (K) road has been completely stopped due to flooding. The traffic on several roads in Aland taluk was hit causing hardships for students, daily wagers and government employees following flash floods in several streams triggered by the overnight showers. The ready-to-harvest tur and soybean has been damaged on hundreds of acres due to high percentage of moisture in the taluk. Bidar city and rural areas continued to witness rain.

A man, who was stranded in the floods of Janakihalla stream in Talikot town, Vijayapura district was rescued by the police and fire and emergency services personnel on Thursday evening. The floodwaters of the stream gushed into homes causing grave hardship to residents behind Vidyabharati school.

Several parts of Tumakuru district, including the city, experienced a good spell of rain on Thursday evening. Gubbi town recorded 60 mm of rain while Tumakuru registered 50 mm.

The overflowing Bhima river submerges Yellammadevi temple at Mannur in Afzalpur taluk, Kalaburagi district. As much as 1.5 lakh cusec of water is being added to Bhima river from three Maharashtra dams.

Ministers divided on caste survey...

Caste survey, from Page 1

Subsequently, Shivakumar, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Labour Minister Santosh Lad, Backward Classes Welfare Department Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi and others discussed the issues. Backward Classes Commission chairman Madhusudhan R Naik is also said to have attended this meeting.

After the meeting, Shivakumar told reporters: "Our party and government don't want to divide people or the society. We are conducting the social and educational survey to provide justice to all. We won't worry about those who are politicising this."

He further said the government had allowed citizens to share their opinions. "Many communities had sought separate identities. Some had objected to this, and we are collecting opinions of all people. We will discuss with the chief minister and make a final decision. No one needs to be afraid." A senior minister told *DH* that a few contentious caste nomenclatures would be removed and this would be announced on Friday. "The Backward Classes Commission has continued with some caste names which had been added during the previous caste survey. The exercise may get delayed by 2-3 days but will certainly take place," the minister added.

Rahul alleges 'centralised operation' to delete voters; attacks CEC directly

Rahul, from Page 1

Emphasising that the details he was providing currently were not part of his promised "hydrogen bomb-like" expose on 'vote theft', Rahul claimed that fraudulent applications to remove voters were filed using the identity of existing voters and mobile numbers registered outside Karnataka. A similar modus operandi was used in Maharashtra's Rajura seat where 6,850 "fake" voters were added using "fake names and fake addresses", he said.

The Election Commission described Rahul's allegations as "incorrect and baseless" while insisting that no deletion of any voter can be done online by any member of the public as conceived by the Congress leader. However, it admitted that "certain unsuccessful attempts" were made for deletion of names in Aland and an FIR was filed subsequently.

The poll body initially did not respond to the claims that it had not shared information despite the Karnataka CID and Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer repeatedly asking for it. However, later in the evening, it said all "available information with the ECI (had) already (been) shared" with the SP, Kalaburagi on September 6, 2023.

The Karnataka CID is claimed to have repeatedly sought the information for the past 18 months since March 2023 and the CEO sought it last time in March this year. The Congress also released a letter dated September 9 purportedly written by the CID seeking the information.

"We are showing with proof how deletion is being done in a centralised manner using a call center. In Aland, Karnataka, we caught their theft. There, in one Assembly (seat), someone deleted 6,018 votes, and it was caught by chance... In Rajura, it was the addition of votes," Rahul said, adding this was "another example of 'vote chori' through deletion of votes".

He said the alleged malpractice came to light after a Booth Level Officer in Aland noticed that her uncle's name was deleted based on an application by his neighbour. "She asked the neighbour who said he had not filed any such application. Neither the person deleting the vote nor the person whose vote was deleted knew. Some other force hijacked the process," Rahul claimed.

Presenting one Suryakant, in whose name 12 applications for voter deletion were allegedly submitted in 14 minutes, along with Babita Choudhary, whose name was sought to be deleted, at the press conference, Rahul said Suryakant did not have any idea about filing such applications. Concurring with the Congress leader, Suryakant said he did not send any message confirming his application and also told Babita that he hadn't done anything like that when she asked.

Rahul also gave the example of one Godabai, in whose name logins were created to "delete" the names of 12 neighbours and the OTPs were sent to phone numbers registered outside Karnataka. He also said two applications for deletion were submitted in the name of one Nagaraj within a span of 36 seconds.

He claimed the applicants ran a software to target selected polling stations. "It was pretty certain that it was done in a centralised manner, at call-centre level. The top ten booths with maximum deletions were Congress strongholds. Congress had won eight out of ten booths in 2018. This was no coincidence, this was a planned operation," he said.

Soon, a museum, in B'luru on W Ghats ecology

Western Ghats, from Page 1

"It will be an organic centre which will tie up with universities to bring scholars from across the country and abroad to conduct PhD on the Ghats and establish its importance. At the same time, it will raise scientific awareness among the people in cities who do not know the unique beauty and fragile nature of the Western Ghats," he said. Asked about the cost of the project, Alam said a detailed project report will help arrive at such details.

"The buildings, gardens and funding for research will be thrashed out after detailed discussions. We are hopeful of the government's response as it will have a positive impact on all, from children to scholars and tourists, while costing little," he said.

He said there was a special emphasis on research with a scope of enrolling up to 500 scholars in five years. "At the same time, we want citizens to be part of this. From training 25,000 citizens to funding 10 community-driven conservation projects, we want research to go hand in hand with impact on the ground," he said. Asked whether the task force will take into account concerns raised by experts about the threats posed by the big-ticket projects in the Western Ghats, like the Sharavathy pumped storage project, Alam said he cannot comment on the matter without looking into such complaints.

"People have approached me to complain about the project. I have requested them to submit their grievances formally. The task force cannot take up such matters suo motu," he said, adding that the matter might still be sub judice.

Elephant drowns in Cauvery

▸ **KUSHALNAGAR (KODAGU DISTRICT), DHNS:** A female elephant died after drowning in River Cauvery near Maldare in Meenukolli reserve forest limits in the taluk on Wednesday. The body was found in the river on Thursday.

The Forest officials, with the help of a trained elephant, recovered the body from the middle of the river and brought it ashore on a boat. After an autopsy, the veterinarians confirmed that the pachyderm died of drowning. The last rites of the elephant were performed later.

DH DECIPHERS

Criteria, chronology & Constitutional status of Scheduled Tribes

The Karnataka government proposes to resend to the Union government its proposal to recommend inclusion of the Kuruba community in the List of Scheduled Tribes. **Sumit Pande** *explains the modalities and procedures involved in recognizing a social group as a tribal community.*

How does the Constitution define Scheduled Tribes?
Article 342 of the Constitution forms the basis for the Schedule Tribe affirmative action plan. It empowers the President of India to notify a community as a Scheduled Tribe in the state or union territory. All such communities thus notified are listed in a schedule created by the Presidential (Schedule Tribe) Order, 1950, and are deemed to be a Scheduled Tribe as per the Constitution.

What is the criterion for the inclusion of a community in the ST list?
The last Caste Census in India, held in 1931, created a list of "primitive tribes." Subsequently, under the Government of India Act, 1935, a list of "backward tribes" was generated. Since the Constitution does not define the criterion for recognising a community as a Scheduled Tribe, the 1950 Order relied mostly on primitiveness and backwardness as the two primary tests in identifying the Scheduled Tribes. Unlike the Schedule Castes list, which is reserved for communities professing Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, the ST list is religion-agnostic.

Have there been any changes in the criterion?
In the 1950s and early 1960s, states were reorganised on linguistic lines that engendered anomalies in the Scheduled Tribes list. For instance, Pardhi, a de-notified tribe (earlier called criminal tribe), were included in the ST in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, but as Schedule Caste in Rajasthan. Thus, in 1965, the Government of India constituted a committee headed by the law secretary, P B Lokur, to look into the criteria for defining Schedule Tribes.

What were the recommendations of the Lokur panel?
For revising the list of STs, the committee used broader parameters like "indication of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness". The committee concluded that the tribes whose "members have mixed up with the general population are not eligible to be in the list of Schedule Tribes".
The government has, over the years, amended the modalities for the inclusion or exclusion of a community in STs' list.

What affirmative action programmes are the communities in the ST list entitled to?
The SC, ST, and OBC communities are entitled to reservations in government jobs, education and local bodies. However, in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, reservation of seats is only for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

What is the Parliamentary process for modification in the ST list?
Based on the recommendations of the Registrar General and ST Commission, the Union government can introduce a bill in the Parliament to modify the Scheduled Tribe list by a Constitutional Amendment Bill. This bill has to be passed by each House by a special majority, that is, a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting, which should be more than 50% of the total membership of the House.

How are claims of inclusion in the ST list dealt with?
Recommendations by the states and UTs seeking modifications in the Presidential ST Orders can be sent to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The proposal is then forwarded to the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes and the Office of the Registrar General of India for review and validation. The Registrar General, in consultation with experts, including the Anthropological Survey of India, tests the criteria on specifications defined by the Lokur Committee.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and at many places over Coastal Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Sept 19: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28	21.2	0.4
Bidar	29.4	22.4	6.8
Vijayapura	29	22	25
Dharwad	26.8	NA	0.2
Haveri	26.6	21.4	14.2
Kalaburagi	30.2	21.4	22.9
Raichur	30.2	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.6	23.9	1.7
Karwar	29.4	24.4	3.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	28	23.8	6.4

INTERIOR SOUTH	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	7.5
Bengaluru	26.8	20.2	16
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	31.9	20.7	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	27.8	21	0.6
Davangere	28	20	00
Hassan	28.8	20.1	00
Mysuru	31	20	19
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29	18.6	50.4
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	35.3	25.2	45
Kolkata	33.8	27.2	00
Mumbai	30.2	25.9	01
Chennai	34.2	25.8	00
Pune	29.2	22.4	0.1
Hyderabad	30.8	21.2	112
Th'puram	32.4	24.8	00

Court quashes gag order on content critical of Adani Group

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi district court on Thursday allowed a plea filed by four journalists challenging an order restraining them from publishing or circulating alleged unverified and defamatory content against Adani Enterprises Limited.

District Judge Ashish Aggarwal was hearing the appeal filed by journalists Ravi Nair, Abir Dasgupta, Ayaskanta Das and Ayush Joshi against a civil judge's September 6 order.

Acting on AEL's defamation, the civil judge directed 10 defendants, including the four journalists, to take down contentious material already published on various platforms, including websites, articles and social media posts, within a stipulated period.

The district court, however, observed that the civil judge should have provided an opportunity to the defendants before passing the order, pointing out that the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) weren't kept in mind.

"The impugned order is not sustainable. I allow the appeal and set aside the impugned order without any finding on the merits of the case," Judge Aggarwal said.

India to support Nepal's efforts to restore peace

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India is ready to support Nepal in its efforts to restore peace and stability, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told his counterpart in Kathmandu, Sushila Karki, during a phone call on Thursday.

Karki told Modi that holding elections in Nepal in March 2026 would remain the interim government's priority. Modi assured her of India's full support and cooperation as per Nepal's priorities.

Modi was the first foreign leader to have a phone call with Karki after the 73-year-old former chief justice took over as the country's interim PM on September 12.

She succeeded K P Sharma Oli, who resigned in the wake of mass protests against the brutal crackdown on youths and students agitating against corruption and the ban on social-media platforms.

Three days after Karki's swearing in, New Delhi's envoy to Kathmandu became the first foreign diplomat to call on the Banaras Hindu University alumnus.

Meanwhile, after his call with Karki, Modi said on X that he also "extended warm greetings to her and the people of Nepal on their National Day tomorrow".

He said he also extended heartfelt condolences for the tragic loss of lives during the Gen Z protests. Over 70 people died during the violent agitation in Nepal earlier this month.

HC probe puts Sabarimala temple board in a tight spot

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, is facing major embarrassment after the Kerala High Court on Wednesday ordered a probe into discrepancies in the gold-plated copper cover of the Dwarapalaka idols at the entrance of the sanctum sanctorum.

The court said the weight of the gold-plated copper cover had decreased by 4.5 kg after it was taken to Chennai for gold plating. The plating was carried out as an offering by Bengaluru-based devotee Unnikrishnan Potti.

It said this discrepancy was not reported and ordered a probe by the Devaswom vigilance.

Potti said that the company involved may have scientific explanations for the reduction in weight. The HC had earlier raised concerns over the transfer of the plates without obtaining its permission.

ELECTORAL ROW HEATS UP: Poll panel denies stonewalling Karnataka CID in Aland case

EC rejects Rahul's voter deletion charges

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Thursday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's latest claims regarding Karnataka's Aland Assembly constituency and his allegation that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is protecting 'vote chors' (vote thieves), calling them "incorrect and baseless".

The response came after Rahul accused Kumar of stonewalling the Karnataka CID's request for information held by the poll body that could help identify those who sought illegal deletion of around 6,000 votes in Aland constituency.

The poll body said, "Allegations made by Rahul Gandhi are incorrect and baseless. No deletion of any vote can be done online by any member of the public, as misconceived by Gandhi." It added, "In 2023, certain unsuccessful attempts were made to delete electors in the Aland Assembly constituency, and an FIR was filed by the Election Commission itself to investigate the matter."

It also said that the Aland constituency was won by Subhash Guttedar (BJP) in 2018 and BR Patil (Congress) in 2023 — an apparent attempt to highlight that the Congress candidate secured victory despite the party's top leader alleging irregularities.

Responding to claims that it had not shared information despite repeated requests from the Karnataka CID and the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer, the EC said it had shared "all available" information with the Superintendent of Police, Kalaburagi, on September 6, 2023.

The Karnataka CID is claimed to have been seeking the information for the past 18 months, since March 2023, with the Chief Electoral Officer's most recent request made in March this year. The Congress also released a letter dated September 9 by the CID seeking the information.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh, meanwhile, released a set of letters sent by the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer to the Election Commission, as well as letters from the Criminal Investigation Department of the Karnataka Police to the CEO, seeking details.

Ramesh said the correspondence reveals "multiple requests by the CID for complete information, including destination IP IDs, OTPs, etc." and "multiple reminders by the Karnataka CEO to the ECI for the same".

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

"Why is the ECI in Delhi blocking the investigation by refusing to release data to the police for 18 months? This is clear proof that the ECI is obstructing the probe to protect the vote chors," he alleged.

In his letters dated February 1, 14, and 25, DySP (CID) KN Yashwant Kumar acknowledged that investigators had received IP logs, but noted that the "destination IP and destination port were missing". Kumar repeatedly sought technical information from the CEO, who in turn forwarded the queries to the EC.

One of the letters indicated that the Karnataka CEO had written to the EC on the issue at least six times.

H-bomb on vote theft to come soon: Rahul

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The wait for a "hydrogen bomb"-like "vote chori" (vote theft) exposé by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will have to wait as the top Congress leader said he would not speak about anything that was not backed up by "100% truth".

There were expectations that Rahul's press conference on Thursday would be an exposé on a high-profile Lok Sabha constituency like Varanasi, but he told reporters right at the beginning that "this is not the hydrogen bomb", but that it would come soon.

"I am somebody who loves my country, I love my Constitution, I love the democratic process, and I am protecting that process," he said.

Asked about the future course of action and whether it included approaching the judiciary, he said, "Frankly, what I am doing here is not my work. My work is to participate in the democratic system, not to protect it. That is the work of the institutions of India, but they are not doing it. So, I have to do it."

Bid to destabilise democracy: BJP

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Former Union minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Thursday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, by questioning the Election Commission and other constitutional bodies, was attempting to destabilise Indian democracy and promote unrest under an "infiltrators-first" agenda, and warned that such actions could push India towards a situation similar to Bangladesh or Nepal.

At a press conference held at the BJP headquarters following Rahul's explosive remarks on alleged coordinated voter deletions, Thakur defended the EC, saying that it was functioning without bias. "While the EC of India is functioning without bias, Rahul Gandhi is busy weakening democracy, misleading citizens, and trying to create a situation akin to Bangladesh and Nepal."

Thakur said that Rahul's presser was not a "hydrogen bomb" but a "phuljhadi" (sparkler), and questioned if the Congress won the Aland constituency in 2023 by "vote chori" (voter theft). He said that by repeatedly alleging that the EC was functioning with bias, Rahul was showing a lack of faith in Indian democracy.

"They have made the politics of allegations their ornament. When the EC asks them to verify their allegations, they turn their back and run away," Thakur alleged.

Defends CEC

Thakur also defended CEC Gyanesh Kumar and said that in the past, former CECs like MS Gill and TS Seshan had crossed the moral line to join the Congress; Gill had become a minister in the UPA government while Seshan had fought the Lok Sabha election on a Congress ticket.

Cloudburst hits U'khand's Chamoli; 2 dead, 6 missing

IMD predicts more rains across state in next few days

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Two persons were killed while 6 others were reported missing, and 12 have been injured after a cloudburst hit Uttarakhand's Chamoli district late on early Thursday morning.

Two bodies, one each from Kuntari Lagaphali and Kuntari Lagasarpani villages were found, while the search for six people continued through the mounds of debris lying in the rain-ravaged villages in the Nandanagar area, the SEOC said.

The disaster struck Kuntari Lagaphali, Kuntari Lagasarpani, Sera and Dhurma, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told reporters after reviewing the situation. He said that over 40 houses have been flattened in the four villages.

The eyewitnesses said that debris from the hills fell on their houses around 3 am amid heavy rains, trapping many residents.

Roads and small bridges were also damaged in some places in the area.

The officials said that relief and rescue operations were continuing in the affected villages.

Dhami also said that directives had been issued to the officials to provide all possible help to the affected people.

Teams of the National and State Disaster Response Force reached the affected villages, along with medical teams and ambulances.

The India Meteorological Department has predicted more rain in the state in the next few days.

(*With PTI inputs*)

Rain claims 2 lives in Hyd

Heavy rainfall that lashed parts of Hyderabad on Wednesday night claimed at least one life, while in a separate development, the body of a man who went missing on Sunday after being swept away in floodwaters was discovered 85 km away — in the Musi River — on Thursday morning.

The sudden downpour on Wednesday night triggered widespread waterlogging across the city, with rainwater entering homes.

Mohammed Sharifuddin was swept away in floodwaters at the Balkampet underbridge on Wednesday night.

Locals discovered his body and alerted the police.

Rescue operation underway after a landslide triggered by heavy rains demolished houses in the disaster-hit Nandanagar, in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. PTI

Counter 'vote chori' with 'ghuspaithi': Shah in Bihar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday asked BJP workers in Bihar to counter Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav's "vote chori" (vote theft) narrative by telling voters that the Opposition wanted to fill the state with "infiltrators".

Speaking at a workers' rally in Patna, Shah said Rahul was carrying out a "ghuspaithi" (infiltrator) yatra.

"They are not speaking of development or roads or education, but they are diverting attention to 'vote theft', which in reality is to save infiltrators coming from Bangladesh," he said.

Shah also met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who went to greet him at his hotel to scotch rumours that he had refused to meet the Union home minister as well as BJP president J P Nadda during their last visit to the state.

Meanwhile, the BJP is also trying to counter Prashant Kishor, whose own yatra has gathered momentum in Bihar.

To counter Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, the ruling BJP-JD(U) combine is reportedly going to send out 10,000 Modi Mitras in every constituency in Bihar, tasking them with speaking about development under the NDA regime, a key plank that Kishor has latched onto.

Nitish meets Amit Shah amid buzz over seat-sharing talks

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a hotel in Patna on Thursday amid buzz around seat-sharing talks between the two NDA allies.

The meeting was significant since several theories were doing the rounds after Nitish did not meet the BJP president, J P Nadda, when the latter was here last week.

Nitish, who is also the JD(U) chief, reportedly met Shah for the first time in Patna, ever since he rejoined the NDA and formed his government with its support again in 2024.

Though the BJP sources averred that it was a "courtesy call" between the two bigwigs, it is reliably learnt that the two allies broadly discussed the contours of the seat-sharing of the 243 Assembly constituencies.

Home Minister Amit Shah with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar during a meeting in Patna. PTI

Though not willing to go on record, sources in the NDA admitted that the JD(U) and the BJP would contest around 100 seats each, with the JD(U) possibly getting one more than the BJP, which essentially means 201 seats among the two.

This would leave 42 seats for the remaining three junior allies — Chirag Paswan's LJP(R), Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM).

Though all three junior NDA allies have been trying to extract their own pound of flesh, with Chirag claiming to fight on no less than 40 seats while Manjhi too coming up with a similar demand, it is learnt that Shah will take a final call.

"Most probably, Chirag will be offered 20 seats, Manjhi 15 seats and Kushwaha seven constituencies. The remaining 201 seats will be distributed amongst the JD(U) and the BJP with a seat here or there," said a senior NDA leader on the condition of anonymity.

Polls are scheduled in Bihar in October and November.

The Election Commission is likely to announce the poll schedule in the first week of October, soon after the ten-day Durga Puja is over on October 2.

The polls are likely to be completed by the 3rd week of November precisely because new Assembly, as per the constitutional mandate, has to be formed before November 22.

HC issues notice in Malegaon case

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Bombay High Court on Thursday issued notices to seven persons acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, following an appeal filed by the families of the victims.

The bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad also issued notices to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Maharashtra government and posted the matter for hearing after six weeks.

The Navratri-eve blast coinciding with the month of Ramzan, just two days before Eid, on September 29, 2008, claimed the lives of six persons and injured 101 others at Malegaon in Nashik district.

On July 31, NIA Court's Special Judge Abhay Lahoti acquitted all seven accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit (Retd), for "lack of evidence".

Maoists offer video-call negotiations with govt reps

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Maoists have apparently expressed readiness to engage with government representatives through video calls, following the emergence of written communication from the outlawed group.

Days after a letter purportedly written by the Maoists surfaced, an eight-minute-35-second audio clip has appeared.

In the recording, CPI (Maoist) Central Committee spokesperson Abhay discussed several key points mentioned in the letter, including a proposed ceasefire, the possibility of laying down arms, and peace negotiations.

He also confirmed the group's willingness to communicate with the government initially via video call. Security forces are currently verifying the authenticity of the letter and the audio clip.

The letter, allegedly written on August 15, offered to surrender arms and observe a month-long ceasefire, though it only surfaced on the internet two days ago.

Unusually, the document included a photograph of spokesperson Abhay along with an email address and Facebook ID — a significant departure from typical Maoist communications.

According to the document, the group also sought feedback from supporters and cadres through Facebook and email while emphasising the need for discussions with imprisoned members.

Intelligence sources suspected internal divisions within the Maoists' ranks, with some supporting the arms surrender and others opposing the idea.

Naxalite killed

A woman Naxalite, wanted in nine incidents of violence and carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh, was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Thursday, reports PTI.

UGC's new maths curriculum faces academic heat

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The University Grants Commission's (UGC) new mathematics curriculum for undergraduate students — which has traditional Indian concepts such as Bharatiya Bijganit (Indian algebra) and Kala Ganpana (traditional timekeeping) — has prompted a petition by over 900 teachers, researchers and scholars urging its withdrawal, citing errors and dilution of concepts. Signatories include faculty from the Indian Institutes of Science, IITs, Ashoka University and others.

"We, the undersigned researchers, teachers, and graduate students in mathematics and related disciplines, are deeply concerned by the UGC draft curriculum for mathematics, 2025. It is riddled with grave defects, and if adopted, will damage the prospects of generations of students," the petition states, which urges the Centre to withdraw curriculum and, in its place, form a panel consisting of expert mathematicians and teachers to redraft curriculum.

Highlighting flaws in the curriculum, the petition said that fundamental concepts had been diluted. "Algebra has been short-changed... at least three courses in algebra are necessary in the undergraduate curriculum. The future of mathematics, and indeed all scientific endeavour in the country, is at stake," it said.

"In courses on statistics, machine learning, artificial intelligence etc., it is natural and customary to have a practical and application-based component; this opportunity has been squandered," it added.

CLIMATE PATTERN

El Nino can trigger extreme rain in wet regions

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Although El Nino suppresses overall monsoon season rainfall across India, a new study finds that it also, counter-intuitively, sharply increases the likelihood of extreme daily downpours in the country's wetter regions.

Over a vast central swath stretching from Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha in the east to Gujarat and Rajasthan on the west, the likelihood of such high-intensity rain is about 50% higher in the El Nino summers, compared to La Nina years.

El Nino, an unusual warming of the Pacific Ocean, plays havoc with weather patterns across the globe. It is generally adverse for the southwest monsoon in India, though there are a few exceptions. Its opposite, La Nina or cooling of the Pacific, is good for the monsoon.

During El Nino years, warmer Pacific waters trigger unusual patterns of rising and sinking air, producing a large-scale suppression of seasonal rainfall across the Indian subcontinent.

In India's typically drier regions, this results in fewer rainy days and weaker showers, compounding their dryness. However, in the nation's climatologically wetter zones, which also experience less frequent rainfall during El Nino events, observations suggest that the storms that do occur tend to be markedly more intense.

"In the central monsoon zone, if you compare the likelihood of rain exceeding roughly 200 mm in one day at any location, that likelihood is about 50% greater for the El Nino summers, compared to for La Nina summers," Spencer Hill, lead investigator and a scientist at the City College of New York, told *DH*.

Hill and colleagues used India Meteorological Department's rainfall observation data (1901-2020) to show that while light and moderate rain became less frequent during El Nino, the probability of heavy downpours rose steeply in India's wetter regions, with extreme rainfall events becoming more than 50% likelier in some cases, which can result in potentially hazardous conditions.

Lalit Modi's kin held in rape case

NEW DELHI, PTI: Samir Modi, a relative of fugitive businessman Lalit Modi, has been arrested after rape charges were registered against him in Southeast Delhi, an official said on Thursday.

According to the police, Samir was held at Delhi airport upon his return from abroad. A case was registered against him at the New Friends Police Station.

An FIR was registered against Samir on September 10, under Sections 376 (Rape) and 506 (Criminal Intimidation) of the IPC. According to the FIR, the complainant accused Samir Modi of repeatedly raping and cheating on her since 2019.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Rights must prevail over religious policing

The Supreme Court's decision to issue notices to states on the validity of anti-conversion laws is an important intervention to protect fundamental rights. The petitions, filed by Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and supported by several interlocutory applications, highlight how these statutes – enacted in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Karnataka – are being misused under the guise of protecting "freedom of religion". As senior advocate C U Singh argued, these laws do not protect faith; instead, they erect arbitrary barriers against personal choice, subjecting interfaith couples in particular to relentless harassment.

Articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution guarantee every individual the freedom of conscience, the right to profess, practice, and propagate religion. While subject to restrictions on grounds of public order, morality, and health, these rights are the bedrock of India's secular democracy. Forced conversions, undoubtedly, cannot be permitted, but the State has no role in policing voluntary acts of faith. The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022, passed during the term of Basavaraj Bommai, exemplifies this contradiction. It requires anyone intending to convert to submit a declaration to the District Magistrate 30 days in advance. The magistrate must then publicise it, invite objections, and order an inquiry into the individual's "genuine intention". Even third parties can file complaints, and the burden of proof falls on the person converting or facilitating conversion. Marriages deemed to be intended for conversion can be declared void. Penalties under the Act range from three to ten years in prison, depending on the offence.

Anti-conversion laws undermine constitutional freedom. The SC's notices to states are welcome

Such provisions are a direct assault on constitutional freedom. First, they violate Article 25 by criminalising voluntary conversion, often by stretching vague terms like "allurement". Second, they violate Article 21 by stripping individuals of privacy, requiring them to expose their most personal decisions to public scrutiny. The Supreme Court in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India case made clear that privacy includes the freedom to make intimate choices, including faith. Third, by exempting reconversions to a "previous religion" from the cumbersome declaration process, the Act creates an unequal legal regime. These laws also undermine due process by placing the burden of proof on the accused and empowering outsiders to meddle in private matters. In practice, these provisions have generated cases and arrests but few convictions, revealing their intent to harass rather than to provide justice. The Supreme Court must draw a clear line: forced conversions deserve prohibition and punishment, but faith freely chosen is sacrosanct. Religion is a matter of conscience, not State approval. The Constitution, not majoritarian suspicion, must prevail.

Cancer vaccine: From Russia with hope

Reports about the likely development of a vaccine for cancer have raised hope in the fight against a dreadful affliction that has remained a threat to mankind for centuries. Scientists in Russia have announced that a vaccine they have developed has shown 100% efficacy in clinical trials. There have been reports on three vaccines, including one using the mRNA (messenger RNA) technology, which involves prompting the immune system to recognise and destroy cancer cells by producing tumour-specific antigens. Pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna had used the technology to develop Covid-19 vaccines. The early-stage clinical trials of the vaccine which is in the news involved 48 patients who were diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The vaccine – developed by Russia's National Medical Research Radiology Centre and the Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology – was seen as shrinking the tumours and slowing their growth. No severe side-effects have been reported in the trials. Work on versions of the vaccine that target other types of cancer is progressing. Those in the pre-clinical trial stage are also reported to have shown positive results.

These are, still, early days – the vaccine has to undergo clinical trials on a large scale. Vaccines take years, sometimes decades, to develop and to be declared fully effective and market-ready. For a comprehensive assessment of the vaccine's efficacy, trials will have to be conducted on genetically diverse cohorts of people in different geographies. Side-effects may appear after years – this means the stamp of efficiency may be further deferred. Covid vaccines were developed against tough deadlines to counter the epidemic which was emerging as a global threat. Ongoing research is expected to refine these vaccines. Meanwhile, reservations and apprehensions about their use remain.

Early trials have shown promise, but a refined, fully developed vaccine is a years-long project

Cancer is a major killer and the world's cancer burden has been increasing in recent decades for various reasons, including a major shift in lifestyle patterns. Treatment of the disease can be expensive and sometimes takes years, making it inaccessible to large sections of the population. The various modes of treatment that are now in vogue, such as chemotherapy, have side-effects too. The world has been trying to find a cure for the disease and the possibility of a vaccine brings relief. Research on cancer vaccines has been undertaken in many countries. Clinical trials have been announced in the UK. India has also reported research on a vaccine aimed to counter some types of cancer. The wait has been on for decades; the world will keenly watch the developments in Russia.

FROM PROMISE TO DELIVERY

Social justice and the failure of political will

Diluted policy and inconsistent implementation reduce a transformational idea to poll-season rhetoric in India

HARISH S WANKHEDE

Since the general elections of 2019, national and regional parties, especially the Congress party, have increasingly woven social justice into their political narratives, promising empowerment through the constitutional ideals of inclusive governance. As Bihar gears up for its Assembly elections, the discourse on social justice has again taken centre stage, often built around criticism of the ruling political class for the non-implementation of social justice policies. The central government's recent announcement to conduct a caste census signals an intent to better understand India's complex social stratification, aiming to craft targeted welfare policies for the marginalised communities, particularly the Other Backward Classes. Though the democratic discourse is infatuated with the agenda of social justice, there is a visible gap between rhetoric and reality. The continued marginalisation of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SCs/STs) from the sphere of power and privilege raises questions about the commitment of the State and the political elites to bring transformative change in their lives.

The Indian Constitution lays a robust framework for uplifting SCs and STs through three key pillars: protection from social humiliation and exploitation with provisions like the SC/ST Atrocity Act, ensuring safeguards for their social dignity and civic rights. Second, equitable representation through reservations in State institutions, which allows these groups to avail crucial positions of power and privileges in governance. And last, advancing economic empowerment via dedicated budgetary provisions and policy initiatives. Policy measures such as the special SC/ST component plan in the state budgets were introduced to ensure financial assistance for the economic empowerment of these sections. However, implementation has been inconsistent on all three fronts, often offering tokenistic value, leaving large sections of these communities outside the benefit of social justice policies.

Despite substantive legal safeguards like the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, caste-based discrimination persists. The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 57,582 cases of atrocities against SCs and 10,062 against STs in 2022, reflecting deep-rooted systemic oppression. From rural areas, where Dalits face violence for minor assertions of dignity, to urban centres, where discrimination in housing and employment is rampant, caste continues to shape access to opportunities. These incidents underscore the failure to enforce protective measures effectively.

The reservation policy, designed to ensure SC/ST representation in State

institutions, has seen uneven progress. While lower-level posts (Group C and D) in public sector units such as railways and banks are often filled, senior positions remain largely inaccessible to marginalised groups. Especially in higher education, leadership roles such as vice-chancellors and professors are predominantly occupied by unreserved categories, highlighting structural barriers. Similarly, in the higher judiciary, SC/ST representation among judges and key functionaries is negligible, undermining the promise of equitable participation. The downsizing of public sector units has further eroded opportunities for reserved posts, exacerbating economic exclusion.

The Special Component Plan for SCs and STs, which is intended to channel budgetary resources for their economic upliftment, has often been reduced to a symbolic gesture. Funds are frequently underutilised or diverted, with successive governments failing to prioritise these allocations for the substantive welfare of these groups. Under the current Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government at the centre, this trend has continued, with flagship schemes for the general welfare of all (like the Jan Dhan Yojana) overshadowing the targeted welfare schemes and policies meant for the marginalised groups. There are negligible initiatives to examine the precarious economic conditions of Dalits and introduce effective public policies for their empowerment and mobility.

Beyond symbolism, the path forward

As social justice becomes a rallying cry in India's electoral politics, its transformative potential remains limited without concrete action. The constitutional framework, though robust, requires rigorous implementation through executive accountability and policy innovation. Political parties must move beyond populist rhetoric and prioritise social justice as a core governance agenda. While the BJP has pledged to uphold social justice, its decade-long tenure has seen a rise in caste-based violence and a dilution of policies aimed at SC/ST upliftment. Though at the symbolic level it offered prominent gestures (like electing Draupadi Murmu as the President of the country), there is an absence of new initiatives to enhance their representation in public and private sectors.

The growing political rhetoric on social justice shall complement substantive executive orders and a fair implementation of policies. Without a popular movement and mobilisation of the marginalised social groups, the political elites would always hesitate to execute effective programmes for their welfare. However, the growing marginalisation of Dalits and Adivasis from the national discourse has allowed the traditional elites to dominate the decision-making process and to neglect the social justice policies. There is a visible failure of the Dalit and Adivasi social and political leadership in coming together on a common platform and building a national debate for effective implementation of constitutional provisions.

The situation underlines an urgent need to amplify the Dalit and Adivasi voices for social justice, enabling new movements to drive a national discourse for policy reforms. A powerful movement for social justice needs to be mobilised under the Dalit-Adivasi autonomy, elevating a bold and assertive leadership to champion the cause.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The man who never failed a letter

Periasami the postman delivered news and solace with compassion

M R ANAND

I was standing in a queue at our local post office when a postman walked in and informed the staff about the death of Periasami, a retired postman. The name Periasami rang a bell, and I couldn't help but wonder if it was the same person who had delivered letters in our street back in the late seventies.

When I spoke to the postmaster, my worst fears were confirmed – it was indeed my old postman friend Periasami who had passed away.

Those were tough days when I would anxiously wait for test, interview, or appointment letters from banks, the Railways, and other government institutions to which I had applied for jobs. Periasami, with his khaki uniform and kind demeanour, would often deliver those letters with words of consolation and encouragement.

No one else knew as much as he did about the agonising period of unemployment I endured in the late 1970s. I wrote numerous exams and attended countless interviews. Whenever he brought me a rejection letter, he never left without offering some words of consolation and exhortation.

He was unlike other men in his profession. Sincere to the core, he made sure that however inadequate the address on the letters might be, it reached the right person. "Every letter is a child, and it should be united with its parent, the addressee. No letter from me will ever go to the orphanage called DLO," he used to say.

He was always punctual -- one could set a clock by his appearance at the street corner, riding his Hercules cycle laden with khaki bags stuffed with bundles of mail. Even ordinary letters entrusted to him for delivery were as safe as registered post.

Many a time, unable to contain my anxiety, I visited the delivery office where the mail received were sorted beat-wise, hoping to check for letters before he arrived at our street. Whenever he caught me there, he would scold me for coming all the way to the post office in search of a letter that might not even have arrived. It was through his well-wishing hands that I finally received the appointment letter which ended my pain and suffering. When he handed the letter over, he somehow guessed its contents and waited until I opened it in his presence and confirmed the good news.

I hardly saw him after that. Over the last 40 years, we shifted our residence to different parts of the city. That I happened to be at the post office just as the news of his passing arrived was no coincidence; I believed it was an act of Providence. As I walked back home after completing my errand, I prayed for the safe delivery of the soul of Periasami, the postman, at the lotus feet of Krishna, the Purushothaman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A November deadline too far?

I refer to 'Dy CM says potholes will be fixed by November' (Sep 18). The November deadline for filling potholes on Bengaluru roads is meaningless and will not serve any immediate purpose. Water-filled potholes are particularly hazardous for two-wheelers during the monsoon season, which will likely be over by November. Most roads in the "Silicon City" of India are riddled with potholes, making them a safety concern and a hindrance to smooth traffic flow. Pothole filling is a temporary solution that will likely require repeated repairs. Instead, the authorities should study how neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra maintain their roads. The contract-awarding process should be transparent, time-bound, and include contractor accountability for road maintenance. If the government doesn't act quickly, Bengaluru risks losing businesses to other states. It is time for the government to take drastic measures to improve road conditions.
Ashok Srinivasan, Bengaluru

Atmanirbhar's the way

This refers to 'Amid tariff talks with US, PM makes pitch for Swadeshi' (Sep 18). The Prime Minister's push for Swadeshi is timely, especially amid tariff talks with the US. Atmanirbhar, or self-sufficiency at all levels, is a perfect solution for India -- and for others -- allowing the country to reduce its reliance on imports and maintain a favourable balance of trade. With its demographic dividend, India should leverage its strengths in manufacturing and reduce dependence on other countries for technology, goods, and manpower.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

The spirit of Dasara

Mysuru Dasara is a grand celebration of Karnataka's rich cultural heritage, showcasing the state's art, culture, and unity to the world. However, in recent years, the essence of Dasara seems to have been overshadowed by excessive fanfare, extravagant expenditure and increased political interference. It is essential to preserve the true spirit of Dasara, which symbolises the victory of truth and cultural glory. Collective efforts from the government, society, and citizens are necessary to ensure that this unique festival continues to represent cultural pride, harmony, and national identity.
Divya B K, Tumakuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, by questioning the EC and other constitutional bodies, is attempting to destabilise Indian democracy and promote unrest under an infiltrators-first agenda. Such actions can push India towards a situation similar to Bangladesh or Nepal.
Anurag Thakur, BJP leader

All they knew was fear. That's the power of propaganda.
K A Riley

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

As Trump looms, EU bets on India

The FTA, progressing despite the US president's tariff call, shows why India matters to Europe

K M RAKESH

The Indian response to Washington's punitive tariff against buying Russian oil and New Delhi's consequential renewal of camaraderie with Beijing happened just when the European Union was adopting evasive tactics against Donald Trump's bullying. Images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin were splashed across European media that closely watched the coming together of Eurasian nations seeking a multipolar world order.

The SCO that followed weeks after the BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro was widely seen as a tipping point against the US-led unipolar world and the emergence of a powerful Global South. The widespread coverage in the European media about the dramatic pause to the hug-and-tell relationship between Donald Trump and Modi reflected the importance the region accorded to India. European news channels discussed the possible fallout and emphasised the pertinence of embracing the Global South.

German newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reported on Modi dodging Trump's phone calls without citing its source. The report picked up by global media further cemented the belief that India had drifted away from the US, although the two countries have since been negotiating a settlement.

In her State of the Union address, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasised the importance of engaging the Global South and finalising the "negotiations on a historic deal with India by the end of this year." The EU is currently India's second-largest trading partner, valued at €120 billion in 2024, 11.5% of India's exports. But India is only the 9th largest trading partner of the EU. At just 2.4%, India is way behind the US and China.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's announcement that India was close to signing the FTA by the year-end brought much cheer in the EU region that just can't wait to tap the market in the world's most populous country and one of the key players in the Global South. That the EU is still working on the FTA, defying Trump's call to slap a 100% tariff on India, is a statement of its intent. India had earlier signed a $100 billion free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association, which represents European nations such as Switzerland that are not part of the EU.

During her visit to India early in the year, von der Leyen had said the India-EU FTA would be the world's largest. The EU views Russia suspiciously, in trade and security. The invasion of Ukraine has further accentuated its concerns over Moscow's designs. But India's close ties with Russia do not come in the way since the EU sees New Delhi as a reliable partner due to its traditionally independent foreign policy.

New market, untapped potential

The range of unconnected ties India maintains with countries as diverse as Russia, the US, Iran, and Israel makes it even more dependable to Europe. India is a key member of the BRICS, SCO, Quad, and I2U2, which comprises India, Israel, the UAE, and the US. While Europe didn't pull punches when India refused to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it has not dented New Delhi's relationship with the region.

Since 80% of EU trade is with countries other than the US, Europe is eyeing markets such as India with much untapped potential. The FDI from the EU to India crossed the €140 billion mark in 2023, while Indian FDI in the EU was just €10 billion. Over 6,000 European companies are now present in India.

The President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, recently cautioned the West, including the US, that "if we don't engage in a more cohesive and dignified foreign policy, especially with regard to Global South countries such as India, we will lose." The EU just can't afford to lose. It is already strapped with rising unemployment, and an additional financial burden to rebuild its military after Trump's warning against depending on US military bases. Slowing population growth and a fast-ageing population leave the EU with no option but to attract overseas talent to replace its retiring workforce, ramp up international trade, find new markets for its products, and spend more on research and development.

The EU is aware that India plays hardball, and accessing its market, especially the farm sector, denied even to America, won't be easy. But with the Trump administration snapping at its heels, the EU seeks the strengthening of partners like India to secure its future in light of a new world order visible on the horizon.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)

Nepal's Gen Z lights a fire for South Asia's democracies

BALA RAJU NIKKU

The world's attention turned to Nepal last week as thousands of young people -- digital natives, dreamers and dissenters collectively termed Gen Z – poured into Kathmandu's streets in response to a social media ban imposed by the now-gone K P Oli regime. Months of activism on TikTok and #Nepobabies has drawn State ire, resulting in the ban. Gen Z resisted, taking to the streets to demand their rights. Police brutality that killed 30 young protesters turned peaceful demonstrations into waves of burning, vandalism, and the public humiliation of political family members. The turmoil unsettled Nepal's political establishment and triggered the dissolution of parliament.

These incidents are a reminder that fragile South Asian democracies remain in transition and that India could play a bigger, more responsible role in regional diplomacy. Nepal's Gen Z protests demonstrate not only the power of youth but also how experiments in democracy across the neighbourhood stand at critical stages. Community resilience today is deeply political and reflects intergenerational aspirations and hopes.

Across South Asia -- and perhaps in global Asia -- Gen Z is redefining resilience. They are pushing societies to bounce forward, not backwards, despite State repression and setbacks. From Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to Nepal and India's university campuses, youth protests are demanding justice and rejecting corruption through 'hashtag' campaigns on social media.

As we witnessed, Nepal's youth are not protesting in isolation, but they are part of a generation across South Asia negotiating the weight of history, economic precarity, oppressive regimes, exclusionary policies and digital advocacy possibilities.

Shaped by transition, turmoil

During my teaching years at the Nepal School of Social Work (2004-2012), I saw how Nepal's Gen Z is global-minded yet deeply rooted in local struggles. Their Instagram stories and YouTube channels today amplify demands as powerfully as their street slogans, reminiscent of the flash mobs of the second Jana Andoloan in 2006. These worldviews are also shaped by global trends and connections with the Nepali diaspora and other youth groups working towards climate justice and LGBTQ rights worldwide.

Nepal's turbulent 250-year history – from autocratic monarchy and Rana rule to constitutional monarchy and, finally, a federal republic in 2008 -- is etched into collective memory. The scars of the decade-long Maoist insurgency (1996 to 2006), along with repeated disappointments with political elites and the multi-party system, weigh heavily on the nation.

Nepal's Gen Z, born in the late 1990s and early 2000s, grew up amid civil war, instability, and unfulfilled promises of a "New Nepal". Now in their late twenties, they are old enough to remember trauma yet young enough to refuse resignation. This dual consciousness -- of historical memory and digital fluency -- makes them distinct. Unlike earlier generations, they are unwilling to wait patiently for reforms. Instead, they are confronting corruption, nepotism, and inequality head-on.

Their critique of "Nepo Kids" flaunting privilege is not envy but a demand for fairness in a republic that promised equality.

To dismiss these protests as mere bursts of youthful anger is to miss their deeper significance. Viewed through the lens of Resilient South Asia, Gen Z mobilisation is not only about regime change but about reimagining society as resilient, aspiring and egalitarian. Resilience here is political, not just technical. Too often, international actors depoliticise resilience, treating it as adaptation or capacity-building. But for Nepal's youth, resilience means insisting on accountability, resisting corruption, and imagining alternatives. It is not bouncing back to a broken and corrupt political system but bouncing forward towards justice for all.

These protests are about intergenerational justice. Young people are refusing to inherit institutions plagued by impunity. They reject being bound by the burdens of the past and insist that resilience must be participatory. A resilient Nepalese future will not be handed down by elites. It must be co-created with diverse youth voices -- from Kathmandu to rural districts, from marginalised communities to migrant returnees whose remittances sustain the economy.

Regional lessons

What can South Asia learn from Nepal's Gen Z? Three lessons stand out.

1. Youth resilience cannot be dismissed as superficial digital activism. It is rooted in lived histories of conflict, inequality, and transition.
2. Community resilience means confronting, not accommodating, corruption and authoritarianism.
3. Resilient futures require solidarity. Nepal's protests echo Sri Lanka's Aragalaya, Bangladesh's student movements, and Pakistan's calls for accountability. These struggles may be nationally distinct, but together they signal a generational demand for democratic renewal across the region.

Gen Z's bravery and hope recall the resilience shown by Nepalese communities during the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. Today, some see hope in the appointment of an interim prime minister backed by sections of Gen Z, but conversations with my former students reveal a generation still restless, imaginative, and confrontational.

For South Asia, the message is clear: Gen Z is not waiting politely for change. They are shaping resilient futures now through social media and street protests, digital advocacy and mobilisation, free expression, community care and solidarity.

(The writer is an associate professor at Thompson Rivers University, Canada, and was earlier with the Nepal School of Social Work, Nepal)

Cheaper than advanced air defences and more versatile than low-tech options, lasers have become a popular choice for nations worried about drone attacks

LARA JAKES

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

The hottest new defence against drones? Lasers

Drone swarms that have deluged Ukraine for years — and crossed the border into Poland last week — have sent NATO militaries in Europe rushing to upgrade air defences in case they ever face a similar threat. Soon they will have a new solution: lasers.

Scientists have for decades sought to harness directed energy beams into weapon systems that would be cheaper and more efficient than missiles or rockets. A growing number of countries are developing or deploying their own laser air defences, and some have already been used in war, by Israel and Ukraine.

A NATO nation in Europe is now buying an air defence laser from an Australian company, which officials, experts and industry executives said appears to be the highest-power direct energy system to be sold on the global weapons market. That is a sign that they are becoming more widely available and could be a mainstay for future warfare.

The Australian laser's maker, Electro Optic Systems, advertises it as able to shoot down 20 drones a minute, at a cost of less than 10 cents per shot. Nicknamed "Apollo" for the Greek god of light, it has about the same level of power as Israel's highly anticipated Iron Beam air defence laser, which is being built for its own military.

"The Ukrainian war and the Gaza war were key trigger events that everybody thought, 'It's the time now to make this operational. We should not spend any more years in doing demonstrations, tests and prototyping,'" Andreas Schwer, Electro Optic Systems' chief executive, said in a recent interview.

"We have some clients which are so much under actual threat that they say, 'Listen, we can't wait — we need something tomorrow,'" Schwer added. He declined to say which NATO nation is buying the laser.

Air defences have been in high demand for years, particularly to protect targets in the Middle East, East Asia and the United States. Houthi fighters in Yemen have long used low-cost drones and cheap cruise missiles against Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The advanced drone swarms in Ukraine showed other European countries that they would also be vulnerable if they failed to quickly ramp up protection, experts said. Days before Russian drones entered Polish airspace, Moscow launched more than 800 exploding drones and decoys across Ukraine, its largest such assault of the war.

For Europe, "the salience, and importance, of this kind of capability has been reinforced by what's happened in Ukraine," said Sidharth Kaushal, an expert at the Royal United Services Institute, a military research institution in London.

Wreckage of some of the drones that flew into Polish airspace last week revealed them to be cheap aircraft, nicknamed "Gerbera," typically made of plywood and Styrofoam. That some of them got past multimillion-dollar Western interceptors highlighted Europe's potential shortfall against Russia — having too few air defences, which are costly to use, against a barrage of cheap but potentially deadly drones.

The most powerful air defence system in Ukraine, the American-made Patriot, costs more than $1 billion and can take years to build, which is why only a few hundred of them exist worldwide. It uses million-dollar missiles to intercept incoming airstrikes and is mostly meant to stop high-altitude projectiles — not lower-flying, cheap drones that attack in swarms.

The new Australian 100-kilowatt laser is being marketed at about $83 million for each system, including training and spare parts, and will be delivered to its buyer by 2028.

Low-tech defences that Ukraine and Russia have used — like capturing drones with nets, shooting them down with rifles and building protective cages around military equipment — are far cheaper. But they are not versatile enough to keep up with fast-moving swarms of drones, especially those that are armed.

Lasers have drawbacks, and some European defence officials remain sceptical about their effectiveness, which is limited by weather. Rain, fog and humidity can throw off a laser's precision, making it harder to hit its target. Most existing laser weapons have a range of a few kilometres and far too little power to stop ballistic missiles.

But it may not be long before high-energy laser weapons are more often used in warfare.

"We're on the cusp of wider military adoption," said David C Stoudt, the executive director of the Directed Energy Professional Society in New Mexico. He said it was a "significant advancement" that a NATO country is buying an air defence laser from a foreign producer.

"That is the big trend — to get higher-power lasers into platforms, to get into an operational environment as quickly as possible," said Stoudt, who has been working on laser and other directed energy weapons for more than 30 years, including advising NATO on them. Given its low cost per shot and unlimited firepower, a laser weapon "starts to be almost the only game in town," he said.

Lasers were first developed in the United States in 1960, and the Pentagon began testing them in weapons within a decade. They use electricity to heat a target with light particles until it melts, ignites or otherwise burns.

Some failed. An Air Force effort known as the Airborne Laser programme, which aimed to shoot down ballistic missiles from the nose of a Boeing 747 jet, produced unremarkable results, was deemed too expensive and ended in 2011. Others have proven successful, like a 30-kilowatt laser that the Navy used for air defence in the Persian Gulf in 2014.

More lasers are in various stages of testing and use across the US military, which is working to develop a one-megawatt weapon next year, according to the Congressional Research Service. At that level of power, lasers potentially could shoot down ballistic missiles and hypersonic weapons; the 100-kilowatt laser is more limited to targeted drones, artillery and mortars.

The Pentagon spends about $1 billion each year on developing laser weapons, according to a 2023 report by the Government Accountability Office.

The United States and Israel, protective of secretive technology in high-energy laser weapons, have barred most from being sold on the global market out of fear that adversaries could exploit them, officials, experts and industry executives said. That also appears to be true for other countries building similar lasers.

Yuval Steinitz, chairman of the Israeli weapons supplier Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, is awaiting approval from Israel's defence ministry to sell his company's laser weapons to allies.

One of them, the Iron Beam, will be transferred to Israel's military in the coming months, officials said Wednesday. Two smaller versions, which were used to shoot down Hezbollah drones from Lebanon, are already being displayed at weapons expos.

The Iron Beam — which Steinitz has suggested be renamed Laser Dome — will be another layer in the Israeli air defence shield against short- and medium-range airstrikes that includes the Iron Dome system. It has intercepted nearly 40,000 rockets and missiles over the past two years.

In the decades to come, "it's going to be a total revolution in the history of warfare," Steinitz said. "This is just the beginning of the beginning." And it may be all the more necessary in Europe, where Russia's war is testing NATO's borders as President Trump looks to retrench at least some American defence support.

The New York Times

Insurgency fears return to Meghalaya

LEIVON VICTOR LAMKANG AND KARAMALA AREESH KUMAR

After a period of relative calm, Meghalaya once again finds itself grappling with concerns over insurgency. The Northeast has long been troubled by insurgent movements; however, since 2014 there has been a noticeable decline in such disturbance. Despite such positive developments, the fragile peace now appears disturbed, with questions being raised about a possible resurgence of insurgency. Recent statements by Meghalaya's Director General of Police, Idashisha Nongrang (IPS), and remarks by other leaders, mainly from the opposition, have lent credence to these concerns. Although the Chief Minister has dismissed such speculation at a press conference, opposition leaders have maintained that intelligence inputs warrant serious attention.

Historically, the rise of insurgent groups in Meghalaya has been rooted in ethno-nationalist ideals and issues of territorial integrity. Between 1994 and 2002, the Ministry of Home Affairs recorded over 92 civilian deaths, 68 security personnel killed, and 44 terrorist casualties. Today, however, reports suggest that unemployment, drug menace, and cross-border infiltrations may be fuelling fresh anxieties. Prominent opposition leaders like Mukul Sangma and Saleng A Sangma, Member of Parliament, have voiced their concerns over growing youth disillusionment and criticised the government for failing to curb the drug menace or address youth marginalisation, dismissing its development claims as little more than rhetoric.

Recently, speaking to the Autumn Session on September 9, the chief minister admitted that Meghalaya faces a jobs deficit of 67,500, where 70,000 young people are entering the workforce but the state is able to provide only 2,500 opportunities. He pointed to tourism and 25 other sectors where skills training is being rolled out, but the gap between training and actual employment opportunities continues to widen, deepening frustrations. These gaps demand faster, more realistic interventions, supported by transparent policies and outcome-based monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and long-term impact. Given the scale of the challenge, the government's promise to transform the employment landscape in a short time appears highly ambitious.

Meanwhile, the drug crisis has reached alarming proportions. The recent seizure of narcotics worth Rs 400 crore and the arrest of 1,061 individuals involved in drug-related activities highlight the scale of the problem. Compounding the concern is the alarming rise in the number of drug users, which has surged from an estimated two lakh in 2023 to over three lakhs in 2025. This growing menace has not only exposed significant lapses in enforcement and rehabilitation but has also eroded public trust in the government, particularly among the youth.

Cross-border vulnerabilities add another layer of concern. In the first quarter of 2025, the Border Security Force (BSF) apprehended 78 Bangladeshi nationals along the Meghalaya frontier. Some of the detainees were reportedly found in possession of narcotics, raising serious concerns about porous borders and their possible link to the expanding drug trade.

Thus, if the state government fails to address the challenges -- the growing unemployment rate, rampant narcotics and cross-border flows -- they could create fertile ground for renewed insurgent recruitment and radicalisation, as has been seen in Manipur. While there is no confirmation of regrouping by armed groups in Meghalaya, the social and security structures are becoming increasingly fragile. Rising mistrust between communities, pressure on border districts, and strains on law enforcement could, in turn, affect tourism, investment, and infrastructure development -- sectors that depend heavily on the security conditions. Additionally, regional ripple effects, particularly along the international borders already under stress, cannot be ruled out.

These underlying issues point to a deeper structural failure than a mere law-and-order problem. Thus, it calls for multi-pronged responses facilitated by youth employment, border vigilance and a coordinated approach within and outside the state. Only through expanding community policing, strengthening cross-border intelligence with Bangladesh and Myanmar and participatory budgeting involving village councils and youth groups in deciding development priorities and schemas to address their needs can the region hope to mitigate insurgent resurgence and ensure long-term stability.

(Leivon is a PhD scholar in political science, and Areesh is the head of the Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

India voices strong resentment at Ford's remarks

New Delhi, September 18
India today reacted strongly to US President Ford's comments at a press conference in Washington on Tuesday on the internal affairs of India. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman underlined the fact that "the accepted norms and courtesies of international relations do not permit of official comments from outside." He pointed out that "there are many aspects of the US internal politics on which it is possible to comment including the question of civil liberties, the extraordinary powers exercised by the Executive."

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Malleswari lifts India to new high

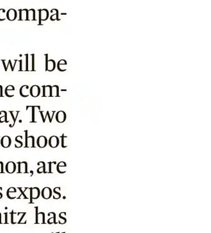
Sydney, Sept 18
Six years ago, Karnam Malleswari put Indian weightlifting on the world map with a gold medal show at the World Championships. Today, she placed Indian sport in Olympic bracket, becoming the first woman from the country to win a medal in the 69-kg class. Malleswari, mauled by critics for being over-weight and written off as a medal hope, slammed them all in style. She did not buckle till her goal was reached, lifting 240kg in total to finish third behind Lin Weining of China and Markus Erzsebet of Hungary.

OASIS | BHARTENDU SOOD

Many facets of philanthropy

Altruism, empathy, religious beliefs, social norms, enhancement of social connection, and the lure of reputation are a few of the many reasons which motivate a man to make charity. In the epic Mahabharata, one of the questions that Yaksha had asked of Yudhishtra was, "Who is the friend of a man after his death?"

Yudhishtra's reply was, "Charities made by the man in his lifetime." This speaks of the importance of making charities during one's stay on this planet. All our religions extol the virtues of charity. There is a grandeur in giving, a quiet dignity in being helpful to the needy. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This principle is foundational to Christian ethics.



Mahatma Gandhi moved one step ahead when he advocated for making charity an integral part of life: "The wealthy should consider themselves as the trustee of God. They are given wealth for the larger good of the underprivileged." Thus the rich are under obligation to make charity of the wealth they own over and above their needs. It is for these very reasons that the practice of making charities has been in vogue since man grew as a human being to link himself with the good and happiness of others in the society in which he lived. Wells, inns dharamshalas for the stay of travellers and pilgrims, and roads linking one village to another used to be constructed by the people of means in the olden days.

Our corporates have always been alive to this truism, and they perform this obligation by donating part of profits or savings for charitable causes. This is not all; we have many such business tycoons who make charity from their personal wealth. Shiv Nadir, Azim Premji, and Mukesh Ambani top the current illustrious list. The quantum of money they donate is the measure of their rank as philanthropists.

But here I am talking about a philanthropist with a difference. One example is Yusuf Khwaja Hamied, founder and chairman of CIPLA. Himself a chemist and scientist, he has been in the pharmaceutical business for over 50 years and has earned respect for himself at the national and international levels and is very rightly called the Robin Hood of the pharma industry. His way of philanthropy is to ensure affordable medicines to treat various medical conditions.

SC: Touching minor's private parts not rape or penetrative sexual assault

Top court reduces rape conviction to molestation in Pocso case

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has ruled that a man cannot be convicted of rape and penetrative sexual assault when the allegation is limited to touching the private organs of a minor girl.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Joymalya Bagchi modified the conviction of appellant Laxman Jangde, reducing his sentence from 20 years of rigorous imprisonment to seven years' jail.

Hearing the appeal against a 2024 judgment of the Chhattisgarh High Court, which had upheld the trial court's decision, the bench noted that the direct allegation was that the accused touched the private parts of the victim while also touching his own.

"In such view of the matter, we find that the conviction recorded under Section 376AB of the IPC and under Section 6 of the Pocso Act cannot be sustained," the bench said.

The court observed that the presumption by the trial court, as upheld by the High Court, that there was penetrative sexual assault, could not be maintained since it was neither supported by the medical report nor by the victim's statements on three occasions, nor by her mother's testimony.

The appellant had originally been sentenced to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 50,000.

Citing the girl's statements, the appellant's counsel argued that no rape had been committed as there was no penetration. He said Section 6 of the Pocso Act was therefore not applicable, and at most the case fell under Section 354 of the IPC and Section 9(m) of the Pocso Act.

Opposing the plea, the state counsel said the appellant deserved no sympathy as the victim was a 12-year-old girl.

The bench, however, found merit in the defence argument. "A plain reading of the evidence and other materials on record reveal that the offence made out from such allegations does not satisfy the ingredients of either Section 375 of the IPC or Section 3(c) of the Pocso Act. Thus, to that extent, the conviction cannot be sustained," it said.

The bench held that the acts alleged in the FIR, the victim's deposition and other witness accounts fell within the scope of Section 354 of the IPC and Section 9(m) of the Pocso Act.

'I respect all religions': CJI on row over Khajuraho case remarks

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

B R Gavai

In the wake of strong reactions over his remarks on a plea to reconstruct a Lord Vishnu idol at Khajuraho, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Thursday said he respected all religions.

On September 16, a Supreme Court bench led by the CJI Gavai declined to consider a plea seeking directions to reconstruct and reinstall a seven-foot idol of Lord Vishnu at the Javari Temple, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Khajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh.

"This is purely a publicity interest litigation. Go and ask the deity himself to do something. If you are saying that you are a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu, then you pray and do some meditation," the CJI had told petitioner Rakesh Dalal.

On Thursday, the CJI sought to clear the air around his remarks, which went viral on social media, triggering angry reactions. He said, "Someone told me the other day that the comments I made, its been portrayed in social media... I respect all religions."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "I have known the CJI for the last 10 years. He has visited all religious places."

Senior advocate Sanjay Nuli, who appeared for the petitioner in the Khajuraho matter, expressed concern over wrong social media posts. "The CJI never said what was attributed to him," he said.

The CJI clarified that comments were made in the context of the temple's supervision coming under the Archaeological Survey of India."We said it in the context of the ASI I had also advised Nuli that there is also Shiva Temple in Khajuraho, one of the biggest Lingas," CJI said.

SC tells states, UTs to frame rules for registering Sikh marriages

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has directed all States and Union Territories to notify rules within four months for registering Anand Karaj or Sikh marriages.

The bench observed that recognising the marriage without providing a registration mechanism amounts to keeping the constitutional promise only half fulfilled.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "The fidelity of a constitutional promise is measured not only by the rights it proclaims, but by the institutions that make those rights usable. In a secular republic, the state must not turn a citizen's faith into either a privilege or a handicap."

The court emphasised that the path from rites to record must be open, uniform and fair. It said registration is vital for equal treatment and orderly administration, enabling proof of status in matters of residence, maintenance, inheritance, succession and insurance. A certificate particularly safeguards women and children who depend on documentary proof for legal protection.

The bench noted that uneven access across States and UTs results in unequal outcomes for similarly situated citizens. It said the law must provide a neutral and workable route so that Anand Karaj marriages are certified on the same footing as other marriages.

Air India crash: Pilot's father demands probe, says son's image tarnished

MUMBAI, DHNS

Nearly three months after the Air India plane crash, Pushkaraj Sabharwal, the father of late Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who was commanding the ill-fated flight, has sought a formal probe into one of the worst air accidents in the country while criticising the investigations conducted by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

In a letter to the Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha and AAIB Director General GVG Yugandhar, Pushkaraj Sabharwal said that "selective leaks" about accident have led to speculation that Capt Sumeet Sabharwal (56) was under tremendous psychological pressure and therefore was contemplating death.

Pushkaraj Sabharwal stated that the inquiry at present had only been limited to Rule 9 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017 - and called on the authorities to invoke Rule 12, which provides for a formal court-like investigation.

The June 12, 2025, Air India Flight AI171 crash involving the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner has led to the death of 260 people, including 241 on board.

The 15-page preliminary findings of the AAIB had said: "The aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec...In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he CUTOFF. The other pilot responded that he did not do so."

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT A FEW NEW PAIR OF SHOES, DEAR?
SURE!
I HOPE YOU LIKE 'EM
WHATEVER YOU GOT ME, HONEY, I'M SURE I'LL LIKE
OH, THEY'RE NOT FOR YOU, HONEY!

Hagar The Horrible

I'M THE SPECIALIST DOCTOR ZOOK RECOMMENDED FOR YOU!
THE INTERNIST?
NO, THE TAXIDERMIST!
HAHAHA! JUST KIDDING! LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!

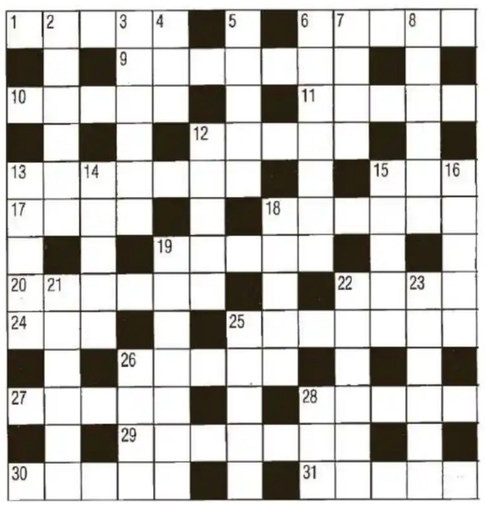
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

LOOK, ALL I WANT IS A LITTLE INSIDE INFORMATION...
FOR INSTANCE, WHAT DO ANIMALS THINK ABOUT ALL DAY?
..BESIDES EATING AND SLEEPING, I MEAN...
THAT KIND OF NARROWS IT DOWN

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12250



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Seaside place where British Rail got established (5)
6 A super birdie, but no albatross! (5)
9 Horse that simply has to be a broken-down nag? (7)
10 Mark and Stanley getting out of line (5)
11 Disadvantageous outcome of many bad bets (5)
12 It can put you in the shade (5)
13 A name for each misguided learner driving on the M1 (7)
15 Possibly Irish drama company? (3)
17 But not exactly oily (4)
18 Hat with a band fear'd ragged round the sides (6)
19 Made progress in association with a Socialist (5)
20 Merchant possibly tarred (6)
22 It's in the southeast, this location (4)
24 Kitchener's supplier of breakfast food (3)
25 Speaks with many voices! (7)
26 Al joins Jack at the table (5)
27 This beast deprived an ancient physician of cases! (5)
28 For me, new town out west (5)
29 Might we stare at such a girl? (7)
30 People with Mediterranean ways (5)
31 Weakening, yet somewhat steadying? (5)

DOWN
2 Keep terriers in check (6)
3 Workplace of a familiar fellow (6)
4 Vessel in front making a fortune! (3)
5 Stand high, having a swollen head (5)
6 Continued in the nude, perhaps, looking embarrassed (7)
7 Matured for a long time, note (4)
8 Missive from the landlord (6)
12 Timber man in a car (5)
13 Turn a flier out, say (5)
14 Completely dirty lie! (5)
15 Miss Lee is so refreshing! (5)
16 Walks in space (5)
18 One thing you need for a stiff leg (5)
19 Man and boy, perhaps (7)
21 Go back to bed (6)
22 On such a fine night, keep out of the car (6)
23 In the White House, did he look odd in brown? (6)
25 Revolutionary new art to master! (5)
26 A recess, it's said, for chaps with no church (4)
28 G-man never starved (3)

ACROSS
1 Reverie (5)
6 Devil (5)
9 Bequeaths (7)
10 Small fish (5)
11 Anaesthetic (5)
12 M East port (5)
13 Small stream (7)
15 Dine (3)
17 Minerals (4)
18 Improved (6)
19 Oarsman (5)
20 Ass (6)
22 Dry (4)
24 Elite regiment (3)
25 Sportsman (7)
26 Explosives (5)
27 Italian river (5)
28 Cooks in water (5)
29 Loving (7)
30 Burns (5)
31 Orderly pile (5)

DOWN
2 Mend (6)
3 Counting-frame (6)
4 Encountered (3)
5 Portly (5)
6 Jumper (7)
7 Sparkling wine (4)
8 Tree-lined street (6)
12 Bait (5)
13 Thoroughfares (5)
14 Blood vessels (5)
15 Stow (5)
16 Conceit (5)
18 Defeats (5)
19 Changes (7)
21 Stupid (6)
22 Nearly (6)
23 Slanted letter (6)
25 Terminate (5)
26 Large mammal (4)
28 Coach (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12249

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Strafe 7, Wet paint 8, Amazon 10, Float 13, Cram 14,Ta-LL 15, War-N 16, Ate 17, Boo-M 19,Taps 21, Sale price 23, Fun-D 24, Host 26, See 27, Blow 29, Open 32, Poor 33, Grope 34, All-oys (soy) 35, Elephant 36, Proper.
DOWN: 1, Swift 2, Stool 3, Past 4, Sta-RR 5, Roam 6, Frosts 9, Man-tis 11, Law 12, Al-ban 13, Camp-ho.-R 15, W-Oe 16, Ape 18, Old boy 20, Act-or 21, Sue(-t) 22, Row 23, Feeler 25, MEP 28, Loser 30, Po(pu)lar 31, N-ewts 32, Poop (rev.) 33, Gape.

EASY
ACROSS: 4,Typist 7, Confetti 8, Abacus 10, Mural 13,Tray 14, Prod 15, Chat 16, Ape 17, Oboe 19, Oars 21, Fragrance 23, Deer 24, Mist 26, Low 27,Tram 29, Oval 32, Real 33, Pride 34, Salary 35, Outgoing 36, Reason.
DOWN: 1, Scamp 2, Intro 3, Heel 4,Tiara 5, Play 6, Slurps 9, Batons 11, Urn 12, Adore 13,Thermal 15, Cog 16, Are 18, Barter 20, Actor 21, Few 22, Aim 23, Donate 25, Bad 28, Rayon 30, Vigil 31, Ledge 32, Rats 33, Page.

◆SU-DO-KU-6705◆

			7		2			3
				8			4	
2					5	1		
6							2	1
1	2		4		7		5	6
3	4							8
		3	2					9
	6			7				
9			1		4			

medium

SOLUTION TO 6704

9	2	1	7	4	6	8	5	3
5	6	7	8	2	3	4	1	9
4	3	8	5	1	9	7	2	6
8	7	3	1	5	2	6	9	4
6	1	4	3	9	7	5	8	2
2	9	5	4	6	8	3	7	1
7	4	6	2	8	1	9	3	5
3	5	2	9	7	4	1	6	8
1	8	9	6	3	5	2	4	7

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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U1	G2	I1	M3	E1	M3	R1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
R1	S1	A1	E1	H4	K5	S1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
P3	A1	E1	S1	P3	A1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
C3	A1	L1	U1	E1	R1	S1	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 220-230
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

B3	L1	A1	D2	E1	R1	S1	RACK 1 =	62
A1	F4	F4	E1	C3	T1		RACK 2 =	14
G2	U1	I1	D2	E1			RACK 3 =	21
F4	I1	X8	I1	T1	Y4		RACK 4 =	57
							JUDD'S TOTAL	154

PAR SCORE 100-110

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRUUS

PODTA

SUFERE

SLEUUF

Your favorite lunch is half off today.
I'll have a bowl of chicken noodle then!
Make it two!
3/13
AS THE DAILY SPECIAL, CHICKEN NOODLE WAS 50% OFF, WHICH MADE IT A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"◯◯◯◯-◯◯" ◯◯◯◯◯

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOUGH SKIER ANYONE INSIST
Answer: To go from the Stone to the Bronze, to the Iron, to the Middle, etc. — TOOK AGES

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HITORI-3159

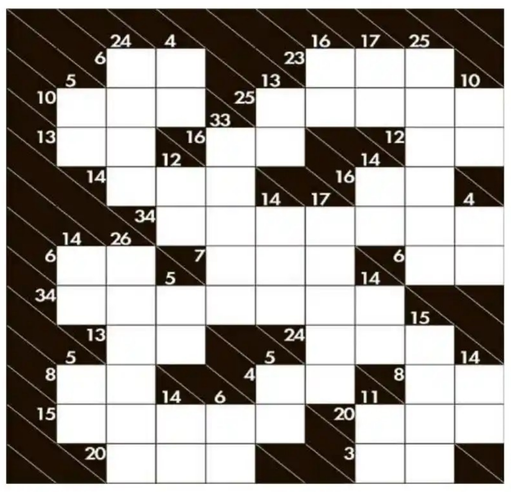
1	8	4	7	3	5	5	2
4	5	1	1	8	6	5	5
2	4	7	5	6	4	8	3
1	7	1	2	1	3	1	4
6	3	5	1	4	1	2	5
1	2	6	8	1	4	3	1
7	5	1	1	2	1	6	1
4	1	8	2	7	5	4	6

SOLUTION TO 3158

6	8	2	3	4	5	■	1
5	2	■	6	■	4	1	7
3	6	5	■	7	1	■	8
1	4	■	2	■	7	3	6
8	■	3	1	2	■	7	5
■	5	■	8	■	6	4	■
4	1	7	5	6	3	■	2
■	7	1	■	5	8	6	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3159



SOLUTION TO 3158

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3681

■						7		■
	■	3		6			8	
4		■				■		
			■		■	1		
6	2		9	■	8		4	
			■		■		2	5
		■				■		
2	■	5			3		9	
■	1	6				8		■

SOLUTION TO 3680

9	1	2	6	4	3	5	8	7
8	4	5	1	7	2	9	6	3
7	3	6	9	8	5	2	4	1
6	8	1	5	2	4	3	7	9
3	2	9	7	1	6	8	5	4
4	5	7	3	9	8	1	2	6
2	6	8	4	3	9	7	1	5
1	9	4	2	5	7	6	3	8
5	7	3	8	6	1	4	9	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Indian is first to be deported from UK under new immigration plan

LONDON, PTI: An Indian national who reportedly arrived in the United Kingdom illegally on a small boat across the English Channel became the first to be deported to France under a new treaty on Thursday.

The unnamed man, who is said to have arrived in early August, was flown to Paris on a commercial flight from Heathrow Airport under the recently agreed "one-in, one-out" deal, part of the UK–France returns treaty.

UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood called it an "important first step" in the government's attempt to clamp down on rising illegal migration driven by people smugglers across the Channel.

"This is an important first step to securing our borders. It sends a message to people crossing in small boats: if you enter the United Kingdom illegally, we will seek to remove you," said Mahmood.

"I will continue to challenge any last-minute, vexatious attempts to frustrate a removal in the courts. The UK will always play its part in helping those genuinely fleeing persecution, but this must be done through safe, legal, and managed routes – not dangerous crossings," she added.

Trump, Starmer sign historic technology prosperity deal

Two leaders hold private talks on tariffs, Ukraine war

AYLESBURY (UK), AP/PTI

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed what he called a historic agreement on science and technology with Britain, as United Kingdom officials who have gone all out to impress him with royal pageantry during his state visit now try to secure key trade and business deals to advance their country's interests.

Trump and Prime Minister Keir Starmer held a roundtable with business leaders as they signed the deal. They also had private meetings where the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as tariff rates the US may impose on steel imported from Britain, were expected to be discussed. At a subsequent joint news conference, Starmer said: "While we shape this bond for a new era, the fundamentals have not changed."

Trump said he was "tremendously thankful" for the hospitality during his visit and praised King Charles III and Queen Camilla as "two fantastic people." At the earlier signing ceremony for an agreement designed to promote tech investment in both nations, Starmer referred to the US president as "my friend, our friend" and spoke of "leaders who respect each other and leaders who genuinely like each other." The event took place at Chequers, a 16th-century manor house northwest of London that serves as a rural retreat for British leaders.

US President Donald Trump and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer after signing the Technology Prosperity Deal at a business event at Chequers in Aylesbury on Thursday. AFP

The British charm offensive followed Wednesday's state banquet, when the king and queen hosted Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at Windsor Castle. The royals deployed all the pomp the monarchy can muster: gold-trimmed carriages, scarlet-clad soldiers, artillery salutes, a glittering banquet in a ceremonial hall, and the largest military honour guard ever assembled for such a visit.

Trump has appeared grateful for the attention — so much so that he has largely stuck to script and avoided his usual off-the-cuff criticisms of his hosts.

Still, he had his lighter moments. Joking with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick as he signed the tech deal, Trump quipped: "Should I sign this, Howard? Scott? If the deal's no good I'm blaming you."

US Prez repeats India-Pak war claim

US President Donald Trump repeated his claim that he had intervened to resolve a conflict between India and Pakistan earlier this year among seven global clashes during his State Visit to the UK on Thursday, PTI reports from London. Trump said he succeeded in ending a conflict between India and Pakistan using the instrument of trade.

Later, he also referenced tariffs imposed on India despite being "very close" to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for buying Russian oil. "We did seven and most of them were not thought to be settleable. We did India, and we did Pakistan. That's two nuclear (countries)," Trump told reporters in response to a question about the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg wears the Meta Ray-Ban Display glasses while presenting a new line of smart glasses at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, California, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Jimmy Kimmel show taken off air after his Kirk comments

Jimmy Kimmel's late-night television show has been taken off the air "indefinitely" after the host was criticised for comments about the motives behind the killing of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk, AFP reports from Los Angeles.

It was immediately welcomed by Trump, who hailed it as "Great News for America." "Jimmy Kimmel Live will be preempted indefinitely," an ABC spokesperson said, using a television industry term for when a show is replaced or removed from the schedule. Kirk was shot dead last week while speaking on a Utah university campus. On Monday, Kimmel spoke about the shooting in his late-night show's monologue. "We had some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterise this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and with everything they can to score political points from it," said Kimmel, referring to the president's "Make America Great Again" movement.

Kimmel

China renews threats to Taiwan

China's defence minister renewed threats that his country would take over self-ruled Taiwan as he opened a security forum in Beijing on Thursday, AP/PTI reports from Taipei (Taiwan).

The "restoration" of Taiwan to China "is an integral part of the post-war international order," Dong Jun told an audience of international military officials attending the Beijing Xiangshan Forum, an annual event where China aims to project regional leadership and boost military cooperation. Beijing considers Taiwan — a democracy of 23 million people that has been governed separately from China since 1949 — to be a breakaway province, and has not ruled out the use of force to bring it under its control.

Albania's AI-generated minister "Diella" speaks during the parliamentary session in Tirana on Thursday. The world's first AI government minister was appointed last week by Prime Minister Edi Rama. AFP

Strikes roil France, pitting streets against Macron

Schools, trains and hospitals hit as workers protest budget cuts

PARIS, REUTERS

Teachers, train drivers, pharmacists and hospital staff went on strike and teenagers blocked their high schools in France on Thursday, part of a nationwide day of protests against looming budget cuts.

Unions are calling for the previous government's fiscal plans to be scrapped, for more spending on public services, higher taxes on the wealthy, and for the reversal of an unpopular change that forces people to work longer before receiving a pension.

In Paris, many metro lines were set to be suspended for most of the day, except during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Pupils gathered to block the entrances to several schools.

"Block your high school against austerity," read a placard held by a student outside the Lycée Maurice Ravel in the French capital, where the gathering included teachers and workers' representatives.

French riot police use tear gas on protesters during clashes at a demonstration in Paris on Thursday. REUTERS

"Workers are currently so despised by this government and by (President Emmanuel) Macron that it simply cannot continue like this," said Fred, a bus driver and CGT union representative, at a rally in front of the school.

"I am here to defend public services," added 33-year-old teacher Gaetan Legay, "in particular, to demand that public money goes back into public services ... rather than to large companies or as tax gifts to the ultra-rich."

Macron and his newly appointed Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu are under pressure from parliament over the likely budget cuts, and from investors worried about the deficit in the euro zone's second-largest economy.

An Interior Ministry source said as many as 800,000 people were expected to take part in the strikes and protests.

"The workers we represent are angry," the country's main unions said in a joint statement rejecting the previous government's "brutal" and "unfair" fiscal measures.

France's budget deficit last year was close to double the EU's 3% ceiling. But while Lecornu is keen to reduce it, his reliance on other parties to pass legislation means he faces a tough battle to secure parliamentary approval for a 2026 budget.

Families of victims sue Boeing, Honeywell over Air India crash

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The families of four passengers killed in the June 12 crash of an Air India Boeing 787 have filed a lawsuit alleging that faulty fuel switches caused the accident, which killed 260 people.

The US Federal Aviation Administration has said, however, that the switches do not appear to have caused the tragedy. The suit, lodged on Tuesday in Delaware Superior Court, names Boeing and Honeywell — the manufacturer of the switches — as defendants. It blames them for the crash seconds after Flight 171 took off for London from Ahmedabad, India.

The plaintiffs cite a 2018 FAA advisory that recommended, but did not mandate, inspections of the locking mechanism of fuel cutoff switches on several Boeing models, including the 787, to ensure they could not be accidentally moved. India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, in its preliminary report, said Air India had not carried out the suggested inspections. Maintenance records showed the throttle control module — which houses the fuel switches — was replaced in 2019 and 2023 on the aircraft involved in the crash. The report also noted that "all applicable airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins were complied with on the aircraft as well as engines."

Boeing declined to comment, while Honeywell did not immediately respond to requests. A cockpit recording suggested the captain cut the flow of fuel to the plane's engines. The lawsuit argues that the switches were located in a part of the cockpit where they could be inadvertently pushed, "effectively guaranteeing that normal cockpit activity could result in inadvertent fuel cutoff." Aviation safety experts, however, told Reuters the switches could not be accidentally flipped given their design and placement.

This lawsuit appears to be the first filed in the United States over the crash. It seeks unspecified damages for the deaths of Kantaben Dhirubhai Paghadal, Naavya Chirag Paghadal, Kuberbhai Patel and Babiben Patel, who were among the 229 passengers killed.

Pak army chief ordered soldiers to attend our men's funeral: JeM

LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir had issued direct orders to the Corps Commander of Bahawalpur and soldiers to attend the funeral of those killed in the Indian missile strikes on Jaish-e-Mohammad's headquarters on May 7.

In a video that went viral on Thursday, JeM commander Ilyas Kashmiri also said that the Pakistan Army and the jihadis have become one after 25 years of his outfit's struggle. "After the struggle of 25 years, we have brought the state, Pakistan Army, Air Force and Navy on the jihadi ideology," he said.

Kashmiri further disclosed that after the attack on JeM headquarters in Bahawalpur, Munir issued direct orders for soldiers to attend the funeral of those killed in the Indian attack.

Oli leaves Nepal Army's barracks, moves to private house

KATHMANDU, PTI: Deposed prime minister K P Sharma Oli has moved from the army barracks to a private place, after spending nine days under the Nepalese Army security.

Oli had flown to the army barracks, probably in Shivapuri forest area in the North of Kathmandu, as soon as the Gen Z protest turned violent, even as he quit the post on September 9. After spending nine days under Nepal Army's security, the chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) (CPN-UML) had moved to a private place, Nepal Army sources confirmed.

However, the place where he will stay from now onward has not been made public. According to media reports, Oli has moved to a private house in the Gundu area of Bhaktapur district, 15 km east of Kathmandu.

The Gen Z protesters had burnt his house at Balkot in Bhaktapur to ashes during the second day of the protest.

US ends Chabahar waiver, revokes visas of some Indians for drug-trafficking

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The United States on Thursday moved to make it difficult for India to continue its role in the operations of Iran's Chabahar Port, even as the US embassy in New Delhi revoked and subsequently denied visas for "certain business executives and corporate leadership" of India over alleged links to trafficking fentanyl precursors.

The back-to-back moves came even as a recent exchange of positive signals between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led to the resumption of trade deal negotiations between the two countries, despite the strain caused by the US president's 50% tariff on all Indian imports.

In line with Trump's "maximum pressure" policy on Iran, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio revoked a 2018 sanctions exemption under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA), which had allowed assistance for Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development, with effect from September 29. "Once the revocation is effective, persons who operate the Chabahar Port or engage in other activities described in IFCA may expose themselves to sanctions under IFCA," the US Department of State warned in a statement issued on Thursday.

The waiver granted by the US in 2018 enabled India to continue developing the Chabahar Port despite US sanctions on Iran. Strategically significant, the port provides India with sea-land access to Afghanistan and Central Asia via Iran, allowing it to bypass its arch-rival Pakistan.

On December 24, 2018, India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), through its wholly owned subsidiary India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), took over operations of the Chabahar Port. India has already supplied port equipment worth $24 million.

On Wednesday, Trump named India, along with China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, among 23 major drug transit or illicit drug-producing countries.

The US embassy in New Delhi said that executives linked to companies known for trafficking fentanyl precursors would face heightened scrutiny if and when they apply for visas.

Fentanyl is a highly potent synthetic piperidine opioid primarily used as an analgesic but also abused as a narcotic substance.

A 2020 report by the US Drug Enforcement Administration noted that India was emerging as a source for finished fentanyl powder and fentanyl precursor chemicals. A report by the US intelligence community released in March 2025 identified India and China as 'state actors' often 'directly or indirectly' enabling the 'non-state actors' as sources of precursors and equipment for drug traffickers.

"Individuals and organisations involved in the illegal production and trafficking of drugs to the US, along with their families, will face consequences that may include being denied access to the US," Chargé d'affaires of the US embassy in New Delhi, Jorgan Andrews, said.

Gaza hit by telecoms blackout

GAZA/CAIRO, REUTERS: Israeli tanks were spotted in two Gaza City neighbourhoods that serve as gateways to the city centre, residents said on Thursday, while internet and phone lines were cut off across the Gaza Strip — a sign that ground operations against Hamas could escalate imminently.

Israeli forces already control Gaza City's eastern suburbs and in recent days have pounded the Sheikh Radwan and Tel Al-Hawa areas, from where they would be positioned to advance on central and western districts where most of the population is sheltering.

"The cut-off of internet and phone services is a bad sign. It has always been a warning that something very brutal is about to happen," said Ismail, who gave only one name.

He was using an e-SIM to connect his phone, a risky method as it requires seeking higher ground to receive a signal.

HUBLI - DHARWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (SWM) Sir. Siddappa Kambali Road,
Hubli - 580 020, Phone : 0836 - 2113888, E-mail : hdmcswm2021@gmail.com

No. : H.D.M.C./S.W.M./74/2025-26 Date : 18-09-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

(Through KPPP Portal Only)

H.D.M.C. invites detailed Tenders for **Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Machneries Under SBM - 2.0 Scheme,** The Procurement Document containing the details of Goods, Technical Specification, schedules and the Technical - Commercial Terms

: TENDER SCHEDULE :

Indent No.	Estimate Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Pre Bid Meeting Date	Last Date for Submission of Tender (Tender Due Date)	Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid
DMA/2024-25/ IND4340/Call-3	511.79	7,67,694.00	29-09-2025 At 11.00 a.m.	10-10-2025 At 04.30 p.m.	14-10-2025 At 10.30 a.m.

May be obtained from **KPP Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in (From 19-09-2025)** For further details contact following address.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (SWM),
H.D.M.C., Hubli.

DIPR/Dharwad/675/Manipal/2025-26

SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: U70101WB2006PLC109898
Website: www.srei.com; Email: sefl@srei.com
Head Office: Plot No. Y-10, Block EP, Sector- V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700091
Registered Office: "Viswakarma", 86C Topsia Road (South), Kolkata - 700046

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described immovable properties owned by "SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LTD." is being placed by way of public e-auction on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, on October 8, 2025 (Wednesday) from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.
Property details, Reserve price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Bid increment amount for immovable properties to be auctioned as under:

Sl. No	Property Location	Type	Property in the name of	Property address	Area (sq.ft.)	Reserve Price (Rs)	EMD @ 10% of the Reserved Price (Rs)	Bid increment amount (Rs)
1	Goa	Office Complex	Srei Equipment Finance Limited	201, Shiv Tower Estate, 2nd Floor, Plot 14, Patto Plaza, Panjim, Goa - 403001	797	75,00,000	7,50,000	1,00,000

TERMS:
- The Properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS"** basis. As such, sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities.
- The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (formats available at https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/) along with the DD/PO and KYC of the Interested Bidder towards EMD in an envelope, addressed to "Mr. Subir Roy Chowdhury, **The Authorized Representative, Srei Equipment Finance Limited",** at Plot No. Y-10, Block EP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700091 **latest by October 7, 2025 (Tuesday) before 4:00 pm. The Bid form should be super-scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale – Sale of SREI Property at Goa.**
- For More Detailed terms and condition kindly refer to SREI Website www.srei.com and/or https://eauction.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/).
- **No brokerage/commission will be paid.**
- **Payment Schedule as below:**

❒ Before auction along with Bid form : EMD (10% of the RP) as mentioned above
❒ On being declared successful bidder-
❒ Within 48 hrs of issuance of Letter of Approval (LOA) : 25% of the Bid price (this is inclusive of the EMD amount deposited earlier)
❒ Within 15 days of LOA : Balance 75% of the Bid Price

Note:
1. If the successful bidder fails to pay within above time frame, all amounts deposited by the bidder will be forfeited.
2. TDS, if applicable, may be deducted and proof of such TDS deduction along with Challan needs to be deposited to Srei.
3. EMD amount shall be refunded to unsuccessful bidders in given timeline.

SREI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids before confirmation of sale (issue of LOA) and cancel the e-auction sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Date: 19/09/2025
Place: Goa

Authorised Representative
Contact:- Subir Roy Chowdhury
Email id: subir.roychowdhury@srei.com

Over 71% flexi workforce below 30 years

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

There is a strong preference among the younger population for fixed-term contracts in the job market, as 71% of the country's flexi workforce are under the age of 30. Also, women's participation in the flexi workforce stands at 25% compared to an overall workforce average of 34% in India, according to a study released by the Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), the apex body representing flexi staffing companies.

'The Indian Flexi Staffing Industry 2025: Sectoral & State Analysis' released on Thursday, pointed out that the difference in gender representation might be due to the commonality of male-dominated positions across sectors that are shifting towards more flexible working arrangements.

It stated that the country's flexi workforce is projected to increase from 7.23 million in FY25 to 8.09 million by FY26 and 9.16 million by FY27 with a CAGR of 12.6%.

The study projected the formal flexi-staffing market to reach Rs 2.2 lakh crore revenue in FY26 from the present Rs 1.9 lakh crore revenue. The increasing demand in growing sectors and a move to flexi work models are expected to boost headcount, generating an additional Rs 68,000 crore in revenue by FY27.

"Geographically, a significant portion of the formal contract workforce is concentrated in five key states: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. The emerging growth in Tier 2 and 3 cities is particularly encouraging, as it signifies a deepening of formal employment" Lohit Bhatia, President, Indian Staffing Federation, said.

Sebi gives Adani clean chit on Hindenburg allegations

Two detailed orders disses accusations made by the short-seller

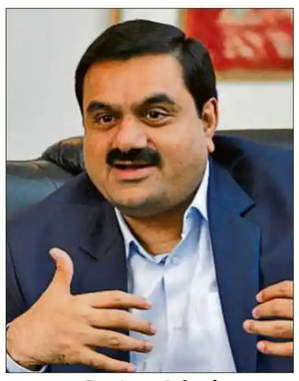
NEW DELHI, PTI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday cleared billionaire Gautam Adani and his group of stock manipulation allegations made by US short-seller Hindenburg Research, saying it found no evidence that the conglomerate used related parties to route funds into its listed companies.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in two separate detailed orders said the allegations of insider trading, market manipulation, and violations of public shareholding norms were found to be unsubstantiated after a detailed investigation.

Hindenburg, which has since shut down, in January 2023 published a damning report against the Adani Group, alleging Adicorp Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Milestone Tradelinks Pvt Ltd, and Rehvar Infrastructure Pvt Ltd were used as a conduit to route funds from various Adani Group companies to fund publicly listed Adani Power Ltd and Adani Enterprises Ltd.

There was no violation of Sebi's disclosure norms as the transactions between Adicorp, Milestone Tradelinks, and Rehvar Infrastructure with the conglomerate's firms did not meet the definition of a related party, Sebi board member Kamlesh C Varshney said in the two orders.



Gautam Adani

It also found no violations involving substantial acquisition of securities or control that could mislead investors.

As a result, Sebi concluded that there was no basis for assigning liability or imposing penalties on the Adani entities or executives.

The regulatory clean chit follows months of scrutiny and speculation triggered by Hindenburg's damning report of January 2023, which triggered a stock rout of the listed Adani Group companies, eroding more than USD 150 billion in value at its lowest point.

Adani Group has repeatedly denied all allegations made in the Hindenburg report and its stocks recovered most of the losses before the a broader index meltdown set in.

A Supreme Court-appointed expert panel had previously echoed similar findings, noting no prima facie evidence of wrongdoing.

Adani seeks apology for defamation

NEW DELHI, PTI: Buoyed by Sebi clean chit, billionaire Gautam Adani on Thursday said those who spread false narratives using Hindenburg Research's 'fraudulent and motivated' report owe the nation an apology.

In a post on X accompanied by the national tricolour, Adani said the Sebi clean chit has reaffirmed what his group has always maintained -- "that the Hindenburg claims were baseless".

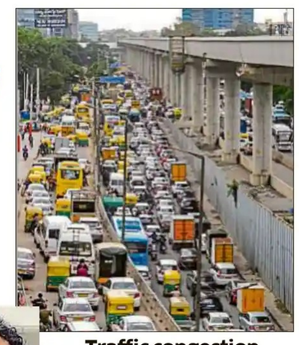
"We deeply feel the pain of the investors who lost money because of this fraudulent and motivated report. Those who spread false narratives owe the nation an apology," he said. "Our commitment to India's institutions, to India's people and to nation building remains unwavering."

He signed off the post with, "Satyamev Jayate! JAI HIND!"

BlackBuck is not leaving Bengaluru: Co-founder Yabaji

His Tuesday's post on X had members of Bengaluru Inc seek govt intervention

BENGALURU, DHNS



Traffic congestion on ORR on Thursday. (Inset) BlackBuck Co-Founder & CEO Rajesh Yabaji. PHOTO: PTI

Two days after announcing his decision to move out of Outer Ring Road (ORR), Bellandur, Bengaluru-based logistics tech company BlackBuck co-founder and CEO Rajesh Yabaji on Thursday, clarified that his company is not leaving the city, only relocating within it. He said the company will not only continue to remain in the city, but also expand its footprint here.

"Bengaluru is home for us and as always, we continue to remain committed to relay our needs and issues to the relevant government authorities and seek support to get them resolved," he posted on X.

On September 16, Yabaji tweeted saying that his company is moving out of ORR due to potholes and dust, with the lowest intent to get them rectified. He also said that he did not see the situation changing in the next five years. Following his tweet, former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai and Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw called for an urgent intervention by the Karnataka government.

Shaw tweeted that she 100% agrees with this powerful plea (of Pai) to everyone in the government who needs to act fast. "Bangalore is an economic powerhouse, and if we shut it down through ignorant neglect, the entire country will suffer," she posted.

Soon after Yabaji's tweet, Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh invited BlackBuck to relocate its operations to Visakhapatnam.

"Hi Rajesh, can I interest you in relocating your company to Vizag? We are rated among top 5 cleanest cities in India, are building best-in-class infra, and have been rated the safest city for women. Please send me a DM," he posted on X.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also tweeted, saying that Bengaluru's roads are getting the attention they need, and repair work is already underway.

Following this, Yabaji clarified that he would not move out of the city. "We are only relocating within the city to a different location, which will facilitate an easy commute for our employees. As we do this, we want to reiterate that a large part of operations would still continue to happen on the ORR," he added.

Oil India to bid for critical mineral blocks abroad: Chairman

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Oil India CMD Ranjit Rath

The government-run Oil India Limited plans to bid for critical mineral reserves in Australia, Argentina, Chile and other countries as part of its strategy to diversify beyond hydrocarbons, Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath said on Thursday.

Talking to *DH* on the sidelines of a company's event, Rath said Oil India will bid for overseas critical mineral assets either in partnership with other Indian firms or companies in the respective countries where the blocks are located.

Oil India has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with several companies including Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL), Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), and IREL (India) Limited, a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Rath said Oil India would jointly "explore, develop and process critical minerals both domestically and abroad" in partnership with these companies.

In 2024-25, Oil India secured its maiden critical mineral block in Arunachal Pradesh, which is rich in graphite and vanadium. The company also participated in the bidding process of the Jorkian-Satipura-Khunja Amalgamated Potash and Halite block in Rajasthan.

Russian assets yield $942 million

Addressing the 66th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Oil India, Rath said the company maintains a strong presence in overseas producing and developing assets across Russia, Venezuela and Mozambique through joint ventures.

"A highlight of the year was the robust dividend flow from Russian assets, amounting to $942 million representing over 91% of our original investment in Vankorneft and Taas Yuryakh, with full recovery expected in the coming year," Rath added.

India has 8.7 lakh millionaire households, Bengaluru 31,600

MUMBAI, DHNS : India has 8,71,700 millionaire households (networth ≥ Rs 8.5 crore) up 90% from 2021, according to the Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Wealth Report 2025.

Among top Indian cities, Mumbai emerges as India's millionaire capital with 1.42 lakh millionaire households, followed by New Delhi (68,200) and Bengaluru (31,600), together forming the largest concentration of affluent families in the country.

As far as states are concerned, Maharashtra leads with 1,78,600 millionaire households, supported by a 55% surge in its GSDP since 2020–21, with Mumbai alone accounting for 1,42,000 of these.

The top 10 states contribute over 79% of the country's millionaire households, with growth fuelled by rising

Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and business formalisation across tech, finance, and industrial sectors.

For the first time, Mercedes-Benz and Hurun India have partnered to publish the Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Index (MBHX), Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Wealth Report 2025 alongside the Mercedes-Benz Hurun India Luxury Consumer Survey 2025, offering a comprehensive overview of the country's economic rise, wealth landscape and the lifestyle preferences of its millionaire households.

Gameskraft to lay off 120 employees amid gaming ban

BENGALURU, DHNS: Online gaming company Gameskraft will fire 120 employees as part of its restructuring plan. This move comes after the government's ban on real-money games.

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, was passed by Parliament last month, and the government said that the bill was needed due to the rapid spread of online money games and that it created serious risks for individuals, families and the nation. Gameskraft's layoff decision also comes at a time when the company is battling a crisis involving its former CFO Ramesh Prabhu, who has allegedly siphoned off about Rs 270 crore over five years.

"Like many others in the sector, Gameskraft is navigating the new regulatory landscape and grappling with a rapidly shifting business reality. The implications of this legislation are complex, far-reaching, and have had an immediate and profound impact on the sector and Gameskraft," the company said in a statement.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PAPER DIVISION, MSIL House,
36 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone : 080-22257649
No. PD-14/2025-26 Dated:18.09.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE (CALL-2)
(through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Tenders are invited for **"Supply of Surface Size Maplitho Paper in Reels and Sheets"**. Last date and time for submission of Tender: **29.09.2025, 3.30 PM.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-5/2025-26, DATED: 15.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 22/2025-26, Dated: 15.09.2025

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-2&3 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD through E-procurement for 02Work, in No-1 PWD Sub division, Hassan. The maximum tender amount is 87.71 lakhs and minimum tender amount is 21.14 Lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender is 23.09.2025 16.00 Hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inor contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/576/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN: U020001KA1971SGC001999
1st Floor, Vana Vikas, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 03.
Phone: 080-23345348, 23345192, e-mail: info@kfdcl.com www.kfdcl.kar.nic.in
No.: KFDCL/MD/FM(Contract)/CR-44/2025-26 Date: 18.09.2025

NOTIFICATON

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of **Finance Manager and Chief Accountant on contract basis for a period of three years** as per the KFDCL Cadre and Recruitment Rules. Interested candidates may download the notification and application form from the KFDCL official website **[https://kfdcl.karnataka.gov.in/8/recruitments/en].**
Starting date for submission of applications: **19.09.2025.**
Last date for submission of applications: **18.10.2025.**
The completed application should be submitted by post/ courier or by muddam to the following address.
Office of the Managing Director
Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Limited
1st Floor, Vanavikas, 18th Cross,
Malleshwaram Post Office, Bengaluru – 560 003.
Sd/- Managing Director, KFDCL, Bengaluru

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (West),
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	(West-1)	BWSSB/ EEW-1/PB/ 3081/2024-25 Dated: 18-09-2025	Rs. 19,60,762/-	26-09-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	29-09-2025 after 11.00 AM
			Rs. 49,100/-		
		BWSSB/ EEW-1/PB/ 3083/2024-25 Dated: 18-09-2025	Rs. 12,30,176/-		
			Rs. 30,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/Adverto/2874/2025-26

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
No: DOM/DEVP/Hostel/Cot/CR-20/2025-26 Date: 11.09.2025

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities through e-Procurement portal in double-envelope mode for Supplier to supply **"Two Tier Cot"** to the Minority Hostels in the Academic Year 2025-26. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under GEM Portal.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	19.09.2025
2.	Tender Amount:	Rs. 498.00 Lakhs.
3.	EMD Amount:	Rs.7,47,000/-
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	25.09.2025 at 11:30 a.m.
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	18.10.2025 by 5:30 p.m.
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	21.10.2025 at 11:30 a.m.
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	24.10.2025 at 11:30 a.m.
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902/901 080-22535919.

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and GEM Portal

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2879/25-26

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Ayush Department, Office of The District Ayush Officer, Shivamogga.
08, G.R. Complex, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, 4th Cross Road, Devaraj Urs Nagar, Sominakoppa Road, Shivamogga - 577 204.
e-mail: dao.shimoga09@gmail.com Ph.: 08182-255230
No.:DAOS/12/Accounts(1)/2025-26 Date; 16.09.2025

Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice
(Tender Regarding Availing Outsource Services)

Short-Term Re e-Tender Notice is invited from eligible Human Resource Firms to avail Group - D services on outsource basis for a period of 01 year as against total 25 nos. of Group - D posts in District Ayush Office and Government Ayurveda Clinics working under its jurisdiction (Approx. cost of Tender: Rs. 53.98 lakhs) and Tender Schedule and other details can be viewed in website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in kppp Tender No.: AYD/2024-25/SE0135/CALL-2 (For further information contact the office).

Sd/- District Ayush Officer, District Ayush Office, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/90/09/943

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
VIRUS DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SHIMOGA-577201
ಪರಿಮಾಣುಕ್ರಿಮಿ ಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಶಾಲೆ,
ಬಿ.ಹೆಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಸ್ಕೌಟ್ ಭವನದಎದುರು: ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ,
PHONE ;08182-222050 Email;- ddvdlsmg@gmail.com
No:-VDL/NHM/TENDER/3/25-26 Dated: 17/09/2025

TENDER REFERENCE NO- DHFWS/2025-26/IND1815 DATED 17/09/2025
E-TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF KFD RT-PCR REAGENTS
Tender documents with complete details may be downloaded from KPPP PORTAL https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ Last date for submission of tender through Portal is DATE:17/10/2025 @ 16:30 PM

Sd/- Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Virus Diagnositc Laboratory, Shivamogga.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐವಿ/ಶಿ/25–26/80/09/946

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ , ವಿಜಯನಗರ
ದೂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:9480855005 ಇಮೇಲ್ :ceozpvijayanagara@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿ.ಪಂ.ವಿ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/1/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–09–2025.

Advertisement

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR OUT SOURCE OF GROUP "D" " DEO" AND DRIVER POSTS FOR VIJAYANAGARA ZILLA PANCHAYTH OFFICE AND TALLUKU PANCHAYATH OFFICE OF HARAPANAHALLI , KOTTURU , KUDLIGI , HAGARIBOMMANAHALLI , HOSAPETE , AND HADAGALI FOR THE YEAR OF 2025-26 AS PER THE TERMS & CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE SCHEDULE , THROUGH E- PROCUREMENT PORTAL & LOG ON UNDER TURN KEY ONLY
Through e-procurement portal
1.TENDER REFERENCE: **RDPR/2025-26/SE3006.** 2.DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL BE RECEIVED THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT: **17-09-2025.** 3.AMOUNT PUT TO THE TENDER: **1,22,98,814 (One Crore Twenty Two Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen Rupees Only).** 4.TOTAL AMOUNT OF E.M.D: **1,84,482 (One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred And Eighty Two Rupees Only).** 5.START DATE FOR UPLOADING THE TENDER DOCUMENT IN E-PORTAL: **17-09-2025 At 11.00 AM.** 6.PRE-BID MEETING DATE, TIME AND PLACE: **22-09-2025 11.00 AM ZILLA PANCHAYATH , VIJAYANAGARA.** 7.LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF TENDERS: **03-10-2025. 5.00 PM** 8.DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BID: **04-10-2025 5.01 PM.** 9.DATE AND TIME OF OPENING OF FINACIAL BID: **06-10-2025 11.00 AM.** 10.ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION: **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER , ZILLA PANCHAYATH , VIJAYANAGARA, Dam Road DC Office Building, Vijayanagara. Sunil B Somanal. 8497852485 (District Account manager)**
Sd/- Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/256

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, ARSIKERE.
PH.NO:08174-232201
FAX NO :08174-233274 email add:
itstaff_ulb_arasikere@yahoo.com website add :
www.arasikerecity..mrc.gov.in
NO:ASK/SWM/15th finance/Solar/02/2025-26
Date:17-09-2025

-: Tender Notification :- (Through The Government Of Karnatka Public Procurement Potal)

Under the 2021-22 & 2022-23 financial Years 15th finance and Municipal Fund, tender's has been invited through the Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka under the Karnataka Standard Tender Document – KG-2 and KC-8 as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Directions 1999-2000 Act 2000. Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through the portal http://kppp. karnataka.gov.in. Sl.no. 1)Details DMA/2025-26/IND5366 Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs)75.43 2)Details DMA/2025-26/SE6189 Amount Put to Tender (Rs in Lakhs)12.26 Further details can be obtained from the website www.kppp.karntaka.gov.in and from the office of Municipal commissioner, City Municipal Council, Arsikere or Assistant Executive Engineer, City Municipal Council.

sd/-President, City Municipal Council, Arsikere
sd/- Municipal Commisioner, City Municipal Council, Arsikere
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/580/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

Crosswater wins feature

MYSURU RESULTS

Crosswater, trained by Arjun Manglorkar and ridden by Aleemuddin, won the BA Nanaiah Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races on Thursday.

1. Fleet Indian Plate - 1200M: Theia (Suchit Jayraj Shah) Anil Baandal 1; Natural Look (Ankit Pal) 2; Always For You (Hindu Singh) 3; Adena (C Umesh) 4; Wb: 1/2, 2-3/4, 4-1/2L. T: 1:12.96 TB: JS Pillay. Fav: Natural Look.

2. Eclipse Plate - 1200M: Estefania (Kaliyaperumal) Antony Raj 1; N R I Millennium (Dhabu Deora) 2; Gismo (Vishwa) 3; Jannat (Kuldeep Singh) 4; NR: Pearl Of Mysore. Wb: 3-1/2, 2-1/4, 1L. T: 1:12.63. TB: Arjun Manglorkar. Fav: Flamingo Dream..

3. Kasargod Plate (Div II) 1400M: Pledge (Mukul Sonawala) Trevor Patel 1; Elegant Time (Faiz) 2; Carter (Jagadeesh) 3; Sira (Abhishek Mhatre) 4; Wb: 1/2, 7, 4-1/4L. T: 1:24.15. TB: Darius Byramji. Fav: Pledge.

4. Dr MAM Ramaswamy Trophy - 1600M: Aashirvad (Monnappa) Faiz 1; Chotipari (Laxman Singh) 2; Magic Circle (Anil Baandal) 3; Natural Tornado (Rahul) 4; Wb: 5, 2, 1L. T: 1:38.51. TB: Monnappa. Fav: Aashirvad.

5. BA Naniah Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Crosswater (Dilip Thomas) Aleemuddin 1; Vandhiyathevan (C.Umesh) 2; Heroism (Faiz) 3; Sekhmet (Antony Raj) 4; NR: Shershaah. Wb: 1-1/4, 1, 1-1/2L,. T: 1:23.33. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Sekhmet.

6. Kasargod Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Perfect Attitude (Miss Ameeta Mehra) Antony Raj 1; Bellavita (Trevor Patel) 2; Double Vision (Dhanu Deora) 3; Fara (Mubarak) 4; Wb: 3, 6, 1L. T: 1:23.91. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Perfect Attitude.

7. Fair Wodd Plate - 1400M: Sir Calculus (Deepak Kumar) Abhishek Mhatre 1; Mstic Divine (Faiz) 2; Worldly Wise (G Mann) 3; Sound Of Canon's (Hasib Alam) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1/2L, Shd. T: 1:24.79. TB: JS Pillay. Fav: Cloudy Hills.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 21w; 13, 10p; Fc: Rs 26; Q: Rs 15; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 47 & 37; Ex: Rs 78 & 47.

II race: Rs 37w; Rs 16, 13, 18p; Fc: Rs 165; Q: Rs 106; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 47; Tri: Rs 452 & 250; Ex: Rs 3,585 & 4,097.

III race: Rs 13w; 10, 20, 13p; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 116; Shp: Rs 77; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 633 & 83; Ex: Rs 3,830 & 4,651.

IV race: Rs 15w; 10, 16p; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 60 & 39. Ex: Rs 89 & 46.

V race: Rs 47w; 17, 15, 32p; Fc: Rs 218; Q: Rs 269; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 89; Tri: Rs 1,955 & 1,376; Ex: Rs 3,298 & 1.009.

VI race: Rs 13w; 12, 12, 14p; Fc: Rs 17; Q: Rs 14; Shp: Rs 16; Thp: Rs 24; Tri: Rs 32 & 32; Ex: Rs 980 & 794.

VII race: Rs 168w; 31, 11, 57p; Fc: Rs 820; Q: Rs 304; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 134; Tri: Rs 24,272 & 20,805; Ex: Rs 54,566 & 23,385.

Jackpot: Rs 2,042 (147). **Runner-up:** Rs 62 (2464). **I treble:** Rs 138 (58). **II treble:** Rs 1,453 (17).

African Gold for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Darius Byramji-trained African Gold and ridden by Trevor Patel will garner the maximum support in The Maharaja's Cup, the feature event of the Mysore races to be run over a mile at the races on Friday. The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Kumaradhara Plate - 1400M: Adornment 1, Embosom 2, Princess Jasmine 3.

2. Sidapur Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Versace 1, Vayu 2, Immortal Beauty 3.

3. Civil Services Trophy - 1200M: Flaming Sword 1, Bezawad Sultan 2, Southern Force 3.

4. Maharaja's Cup - 1600M: African Gold 2, Mayne Magic 2, Mandarino 3.

5. Sidapur Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Multisided 1, Smile Of Beauty 2, Anushtubha 3.

6. Psychic Strenght Plate - 1600M: Coorg General 1, Clyde Star 1, Lucky Point 3.

Day's best: Flaming Sword. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 4, 5, 6.

Anshul takes slender lead in third round

BENGALURU, DHNS: West Bengal's Anshul Mishra carded a six-under 66 to climb to the top of the men's leaderboard at the IGU Bio-Gen Rotary Southern India Amateur Golf Championship at the Karnataka Golf Association here on Thursday.

Anshul Mishra

Anshul had a blemish-free round where he made six birdies - four on the front nine and two on the back nine - for a three-day total of 11-under 205 on the par-72 course. Going into the final day, Anshul was ahead by a shot over Delhi's Pritish Singh Karayat who added a four-under 68 to his previous two rounds of 70 and 68.

In the combined ladies, girls A & B category, Rajasthan's Guntas Kaur Sandhu shot a four-under 68 following her one-under 71 on Wednesday to take a one-shot lead over over Sri Lanka's Kaya Daluwatte.

Leading scores: Men (after 54 holes): 205: Anshul Mishra (69, 70, 66); **206:** Pritish Singh Karayat (70, 68, 68); **208:** Deepak Yadav (73, 69, 66), Ishaan Chawhan (67, 69, 72).

Ladies, Girls A & B combined (after 36 holes): 139: Guntas Kaur Sandhu (71, 68); **140:** Kaya Daluwatte (71, 69); **142:** Anuradha Chaudhuri (70, 72).

A category: 140: Kaya Daluwatte (71, 69); **142:** Anuradha Chaudhuri (70, 72).

B category: 139: Guntas Kaur Sandhu (71, 68); **155:** Rabab Kahlon (76, 79).

C category: 142: Aida Thimmaiah (72, 70); **153:** Ojaswini Saraswat (76, 77).

ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Neeraj falters, Sachin shines

Set'back' for Indian ace as his protege finishes fourth

TOKYO, PTI

Struggling with back pain, defending champion Neeraj Chopra endured a nightmarish outing at the World Championships men's javelin throw finals to end a disappointing eighth, outperformed by debutant compatriot Sachin Yadav, who logged a creditable fourth-place finish here on Thursday.

On a day when no thrower managed to cross 90m, Chopra was ousted after the fifth and penultimate round with a best effort of 84.03m that left him eighth overall.

The shock result was unexpected, as the Indian fans have been used to Chopra either winning a gold medal or finishing on the podium for the last four years since scripting history by winning the Tokyo Olympics gold in 2021.

Chopra, who had also won a silver in the 2022 edition besides the gold in 2023, has not finished outside the top-2 since winning gold in the 2021 Tokyo Games. After that, he has either won or finished second in 24 international events.

Known for his consistency, it was inexplicable for Chopra not to even cross the 85m mark in five attempts. His worst performance before Thursday was 82.27m while winning gold at the Federation Cup in May 2024. Thursday's result would be ranked as one of the worst in Chopra's illustrious career.

Chopra said after the finals that he has been dealing with a back issue for the past two weeks, for which he was undergoing rehabilitation.

Ironically, all of Sachin's five legal throws were better than Chopra's day's best of 84.03m.

The gold went to Keshorn Walcott (88.16m) of Trinidad and Tobago, followed by Grenada's Anderson Peters (87.38m) and Curtis Thompson (86.67m). Sachin was fourth with his first round effort of 86.27m.

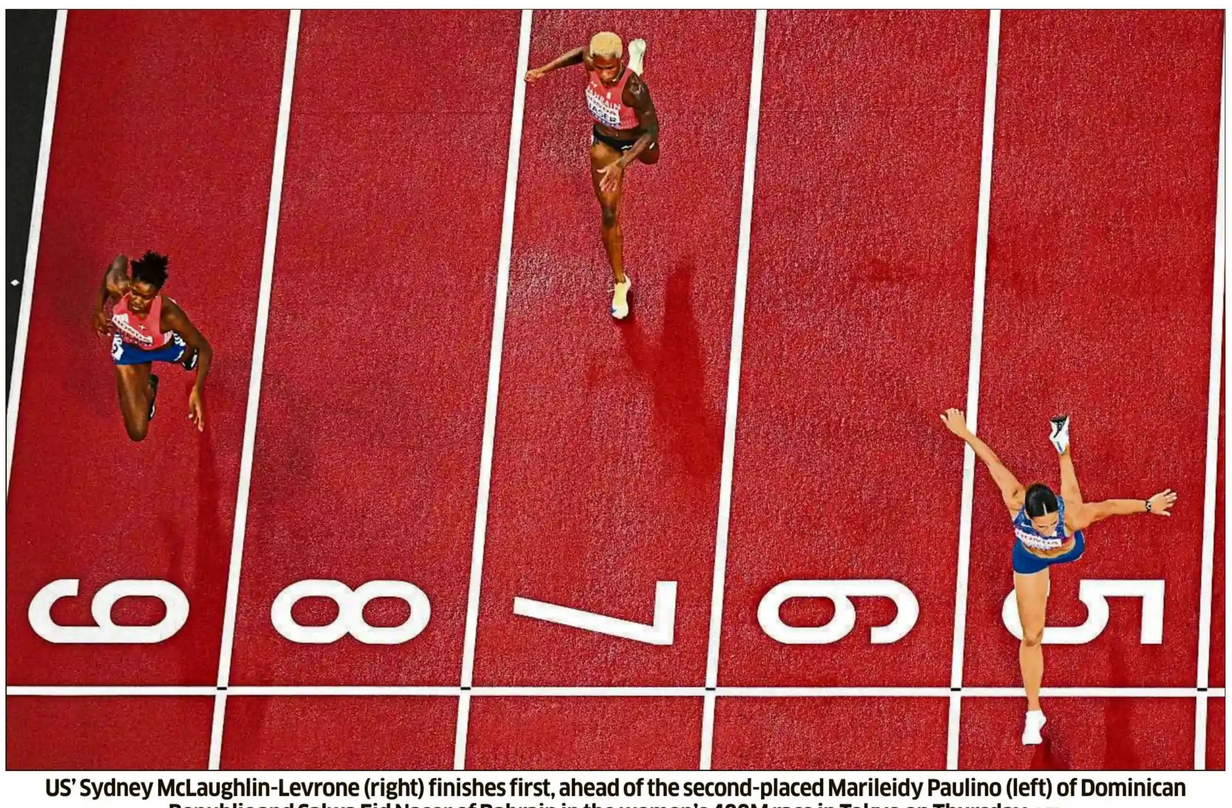
Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, a silver-medallist in the previous edition of the World Championships, was among the first set of throwers to exit in the fourth round with a best of 82.75m. The much-anticipated Chopra-Nadeem clash for the first time in more than a year never happened as Thursday's final overturned the form book upside down.

Chopra and German Diamond League trophy winner Julian Weber were expected to be on the podium but it was not to be. Weber finished fifth with 86.11m.

Unlike the rules applied in the 2023 edition in Budapest, 10 competitors remained after the third round and two were eliminated after the fourth round in the finals here. Another two were eliminated in the fifth round so that only six athletes compete in the sixth and final round.

In 2023, top eight remained after the third round and all of them continued till the sixth and final round.

Neeraj Chopra (left) wears a disappointed look while Sachin Yadav improved his personal best at the javelin final of the World Championships in Tokyo on Thursday. REUTERS



US' Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (right) finishes first, ahead of the second-placed Marileidy Paulino (left) of Dominican Republic and Salwa Eid Naser of Bahrain in the women's 400M race in Tokyo on Thursday. AFP

Sensational Sydney steals the show

TOKYO, AFP

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone brought the house down on Thursday by coming within a whisker of breaking the four-decade-old women's 400 metres world record while Botswana's Busang Collen Kebinatshipi impressively won the men's one-lap title.

McLaughlin-Levrone ran through the rain to post the second fastest time in history of 47.78s at the Tokyo National Stadium.

It only be a matter of time before the 400m hurdles world record holder breaks the mark of 47.60 set by East Germany's Marita Koch in 1985, which has long had question marks hanging over it.

McLaughlin-Levrone's decision to switch from the hurdles to the flat this season paid off handsomely.

It was the same stadium where the 26-year-old American won her first 400m hurdles gold, but that was in front of empty stands due to the Covid restrictions at the Tokyo Olympics.

Botswana's Busang Collen Kebinatshipi celebrates after winning the men's 400m final. AFP

This time she was able to rush over, stand on her toes and kiss her husband, Andre Levrone Junior, among the spectators.

"You know at the end of the day, this wasn't my title to hold on to, it was mine to gain," she said. "Bobby (Kersee her coach) uses boxing terms all the time. He said you got to go out there and take the belt It's not yours and you got to go earn it."

Botswana came into the men's 400m final never having won a medal in the event in the championships -- they left with two. The largely unknown Busang Collen Kebinatshipi took gold, in 43.53sec, the fastest time in the world this year.

His team-mate Bayapo Ndori added bronze.

"This is my first title and it feels crazy," said Kebinatshipi. "In the final, I had no fear.

"I wanted to go all out and see where I could go."

Trinidad, like Botswana, also took away two medals.

Seasoned campaigner Jereem Richards won silver in the 400m -- if he had had another 10 metres it would have been gold, so fast was he finishing -- and 2012 Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott rolled back the years to win the javelin world title.

There will be some party tonight as they are roommates.

"When we spoke about this before the competition it looked like a joke," said Richards of their double haul. "Now it's a reality."

All good things have to come to an end and such was the case for entertaining Venezuelan triple jump icon Yulimar Rojas.

The 29-year-old's record run of four successive world outdoor golds was ended by Leyanis Perez Hernandez, who won Cuba's first gold in the women's triple jump since Yargelis Savigne collected the second of her world titles in 2009.

Results: Men: 400m: Busang Collen Kebinatshipi (BOT) 43.53s, 1; Jereem Richards (TTO) 43.72, 2; Bayapo Ndori (BOT) 44.20, 3.

Javelin throw: Keshorn Walcott (TTO) 88.16m, 1; Anderson Peters (GRN) 87.38, 2; Curtis Thompson (USA) 86.67, 3.

Women: 400m: Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA) 47.78s, 1 (CR); Marileidy Paulino (DOM) 47.98, 2; Salwa Eid Naser (BRN) 48.19, 3.

Triple jump: Leyanis Perez Hernandez (CUB) 14.94m, 1; Thea Lafond (DMA) 14.89, 2; Yulimar Rojas (VEN) 14.76, 3.

Sebastian Coe

WA chief Coe hails Sydney as 'box office'

TOKYO, AFP: Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone is "box office", according to World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe, but so rarely did the American compete until recently that she resembled the late, reclusive Swedish film legend Greta Garbo.

The 26-year-old admits she organises her season around championships, although this year she did take part in the Grand Slam Track meetings.

It is hard to argue with her decision to race sparingly when once again she delivered on the global stage on Thursday in Tokyo.

She came so close to erasing one of the oldest records in the books -- Marita Koch's 400 metres mark of 47.60sec, set four decades ago in 1985.

McLaughlin-Levrone blasted through the rain, clocking 47.78sec, easily the second fastest time in history.

She already owns the 400 metres hurdles world record, which she bettered most recently in winning her second Olympic title in Paris last year.

While her great rival in that event, Femke Bol, would race at the drop of a hat, McLaughlin-Levrone, whose first Olympics came when she was just 16 in Rio, is the polar opposite.

Her track appearances are rare -- and in Europe they are collector's items.

Her sole Diamond League appearance in between winning her first Olympic title in Tokyo in the Covid-delayed Games in 2021 and retaining it last year was a flat 400m at the Paris Diamond League meeting in 2023.

She also rarely gives interviews.

Coe, himself a two-time Olympic champion in the 1,500m, acknowledges she is one of the true stars of his sport, but he wishes she would compete more often.

Van Dijk delivers late for Liverpool

PSG kickstart title defence in style with a 4-0 thrashing of Atalanta

PARIS, AFP

Virgil van Dijk scored a dramatic late winner to grab Liverpool a 3-2 Champions League victory over Atletico Madrid, while Paris Saint-Germain kicked off their title defence by thrashing Atalanta on Wednesday.

Elsewhere, Harry Kane scored twice as Bayern Munich downed Club World Cup winners Chelsea 3-1 as Pafos and Bodo/Glimt marked their Champions League debuts with hard-earned draws.

Liverpool, with club-record signing Alexander Isak on debut, raced into a two-goal lead inside the first six minutes as Atletico struggled to get out of their own half on Merseyside.

Virgil van Dijk celebrates after scoring Liverpool's winner against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday. AFP

A Mohamed Salah free-kick flew in off Andy Robertson for a fortuitous fourth-minute opener, before the Egyptian forward collected Ryan Gravenberch's pass and slotted into the bottom corner.

But Atletico eased themselves into the game and halved the deficit in first-half injury time. Marcos Llorente, who scored twice in Atletico's famous last-16 win at Anfield five years ago, stabbed the ball beyond a diving Alisson Becker from the edge of the box. Llorente eventually draw level with a late volley for Atletico.

But Arne Slot's English champions have won all four of their opening Premier League games of the season with winners inside the last 10 minutes.

This time it was skipper Van Dijk who produced the big moment with an excellent header from Dominik Szoboszlai's corner in the 92nd minute.

PSG got their first Champions League campaign as reigning European champions off to a flying start with a 4-0 win over Atalanta in Paris. Captain Marquinhos tapped into an empty net in the third minute, before Khvicha Kvaratskhelia crashed home a fine second six minutes before half-time.

Meanwhile, Bayern gave themselves an early two-goal lead in a repeat of the 2012 Champions League final against Chelsea at the Allianz Arena.Inter Milan, who were humbled 5-0 in last season's final by PSG, started their league-phase campaign with a 2-0 away win against Ajax.

Results: Ajax: 0 lt to Inter Milan: 2 (Thuram 42nd, 47th); Bayern Munich: 3 (Chalobah 20th og, Kane 27th pen, 63rd) bt Chelsea: 1 (Palmer 29th), Liverpool: 3 (Robertson 4th, Salah 6th, van Dijk 90th+2) bt Atletico Madrid: 2 (Llorente 45th+3th, 81st); PSG: 4 (Marquinhos 3rd, Kvaratshelia 51st, Mendes 51st, Ramos 90th+1) bt Atalanta: 0.

Mohsin spins Colts' victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

KSCA Colts' spin duo Mohsin Khan and Shikhar Shetty shared nine wickets in what was a dramatic 10-run victory over Baroda on the final day of the third round of the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament at the SDNRW Ground in Mysuru on Thursday.

Baroda were cruising towards a comfortable victory at one stage as a mere 57 runs were needed with six wickets in hand. 150-up Jyotsnil Singh was leading the chase in a threatening partnership of 103 runs with wicketkeeper-batter Akshay More (43). However, off-spinner Mohsin (5/89) dismissed the two set batters in quick intervals to unnerve the visitors.

The last six wickets fell in the space of 46 runs as the 21-year-old tweaker soon removed Rasikh Dar (6) and Bharghav Bhatt (2) to complete his five-wicket haul. Shikhar (4/94) piled on the pressure too as he took out two of the tail-enders, including No. 11 Lakshit Toksiya (1) to seal the win.

Mumbai's Ajinkya Rahane scored 103 runs against KSCA Secretary's XI at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Meanwhile, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, Ajinkya Rahane scored a century (103) to force a draw against KSCA Secretary's XI. The hosts put up a target of 530 for the Mumbaikars after getting 429 all out early on the day. Dhruv Prabhakar, who resumed the day on 139 not out, remained unbeaten on 159 while wickets fell thick and fast at the other end upon resumption from 388/6.

Brief scores: At SDNRW: KSCA Colts: 184 all out & 382 all out bt Baroda: 209 all out & (O/n: 142/2): 347 all out in 134.1 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 156, Shivalik Sharma 37, Vishnu Solanki 25, Akshay More 43; Shikhar Shetty 4-94, Mohsin Khan 5-89).

At M Chinnaswamy: KSCA Secretary's XI: 280 all out & (O/n: 388/6) 429 all out in 134.5 overs (Lochan 25, Faizan Khan 53, Dhruv Prabhakar 159 n.o., Kruthik Krishna 77, Rajvir Wadhwa 57; Sylvester D'souza 5-65, Atharva Ankolekar 2-99) vs Mumbai 182 all out & 270/5 in 66.5 overs (Pranav Kela 46, Ajinkya Rahane 103, Musheer Khan 43, Suved Parkar 36, Hardik Tamore 34 n.o., Abhishek Ahlawat 2-65).

At Alur 2: KSCA XI: 270 all out & 181/8 decl drew with Tripura: 281 all out (Day 4 called out due to wet outfield).

At SJCE: Andhra: 87 all out & 500 all out in 129.2 overs lt to Himachal Pradesh: 455 all out & (O/n: 8/0): 134/6 in 27.1 overs (Siddhant Purohit 37, Ekant Sen 42; K Sai Teja 4-24).

At KINI Sports: Maharashtra: 404 all out & (O/n: 24/1) 40/4 in 15 overs (Parth Rekhade 2-9) drew with Vidarbha: 380 all out in 118.2 overs.

At Alur 1: Madhya Pradesh: 276 all out & 214/6 decl bt Chhattisgarh 292 all out & 88 all out in 37 overs (Arafat Khan 30; Adheer Pratap Singh 5-30, Sagar Solanki 3-33, Rishabh Chouhan 2-17).

Lalkraw brace in Kodagu FC victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lalkraw S Mawia's brace was enough to give Kodagu FC a 2-0 win over Roots FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

After breaking the deadlock in the 41st minute, Lalkraw added a second goal in the 87th minute to seal a comfortable win for Kodagu FC.

In the other games of the day, Arjun Gouda M's lone goal in the 59th minute helped Sporting Club Bengaluru defeat Rebels FC 1-0 while South United FC rode on Mustafa Shaikh's 66th minute goal to score a 1-0 win over HAL FC.

SC Bengaluru's Arjun Gouda M (centre) celebrates with team-mates after scoring a goal. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

LOCAL FOOTBALL

In the matches' scheduled today, United Stars FC will take on Bangalore Dream United FC at 11 am followed by Kickstart FC taking on MEG & Centre FC in the second game from 1:30. BFC and FC Agniputhra will play the last match of the day.

Results: Sporting Club Bengaluru: 1 (Arjun Gouda M 59th) bt Rebels FC: 0; Kodagu FC: 2 (Lalkraw S Mawia 41st, 87th) bt Roots FC: 0; South United FC: 1 (Mustafa Shaikh 66th) bt HAL FC: 0.

Fighter Antim wins Worlds bronze again

ZAGREB, PTI

Mixing strong defence with measured attack, young wrestler Antim Panghal won her second World Championship medal with a dominating 9-1 victory over U-23 World Champion Jenna Malmgren in the bronze playoff here on Thursday, ensuring that the Indian contingent won't return empty-handed from the Croatian capital.

Since the first day of competition, the Indian wrestlers have looked a hapless lot following Aman Sehrawat's shock disqualification, but Antim made sure that the country's medal-winning tradition at the prestigious tournament continued.

Antim Panghal defeated Sweden's Jonna Malmgren in the repechage round on Thursday. FILE PHOTO

The 21-year-old wrestler had won a bronze in the 2023 edition as well but since the 2024 Olympic Games, where she faced not just a heartbreaking first-round exit but also the humiliation of deportation, she has been under pressure.

Also, Malmgren was a very aggressive wrestler but Antim stood her defence, never letting the Swede gain any momentum. Antim went for single-leg attacks at the beginning, but Malmgren thwarted both attempts, using her immense strength. Antim got on board when the Swede was put onthe clock for passivity. She kept a 3-0 lead at the end of the first half of three minutes.

In the second half, Malmgren went for a right leg attack but Antim defended well and effected another take down to consolidate. A cushion of 5-0 and mere 35 seconds to defend, Antim found a four-pointer to literally finish the bout in her favour.

Manisha Bhanwala went out of the bronze medal race after losing her repechage round 0-9 to Bulgaria's Bilyana Dudova.

Praneeth shines for Mysore Zone

BENGALURU, DHNS: Praneeth Shetty cracked a fine hundred while Swayam Raje Urs V made a half-century as Mysore Zone claimed the innings honours and three points against Shivamogga at the KSCA Under-19 Inter Zonal cricket tournament here at RWF.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, Mysore amassed 351 for the loss of eight wickets in 90 overs, riding on Praneeth's unbeaten 155 and Swayam's 79. Lohith S was the pick of the bowlers in the first innings for Shivamogga with 3/57. In their reply, Mohammed Fazal's 73 and Tanmay M 40, dragged them to 228 all out in 75.3 overs.

In the second innings, Mysore managed 48/4 in 13 overs, with Lohith (2/11) among the wickets again for the opponents.

Brief scores: At RWF: Mysore Zone: 351/8 in 90 overs (Praneeth Shetty 155 n.o., Swayam Raje Urs V 79, Lokesha 44; Lohith S 3-57) & 48/4 in 13 overs (Lohith S 2-11) drew with Shivamogga Zone: 228 all out in 75.3 overs (Tanmay M 40, Pradyumna AN 27, Mohammed Fazal 73; Dhakshath P 2-33, Dhyaan Mahesh Hiremath 2-38, Vallabh Hegde 2-35, Tharun Kumar Kl 2-25). **Mysore Zone: 3 points; Shivamogga Zone:** 1 point.
At ISS Sports Arena: Vice President's XI: 210 all out in 68.3 overs (Raag Punja 28, Chiranth D 45, Bhuvan Gowda N 72; Tejas KA 3-25, Arya J Gowda 2-41, Sidharth Akhil 3-54) & 38 for no loss in 13 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 33 n.o.) drew with Bangalore City XI: 248/6 in 90 overs (Arya J Gowda 61, Nishchinth Parmashwar 60, Arnavv Sharma 52 n.o., Tejas KA 46 n.o.; Vaibhav Sharma 3-38). **Bangalore City XI: 3; Vice President's XI: 1.**
At 22 Yards Altiore Sports Oval: Secretary's XI: 283 all out in 87.1 overs (Nitish Arya 57, Shiv R 54, Akshath Prabhakar 93, Satayiu Chakraborty 40; CN Gaurav Appanna 2-39, Rennell Pais 3-70, Ayush S Acharya 4-40) drew with Mangalore Zone: 116 all out in 43.3 overs (Sachith Shenoy Konchady 2-28, Nitin Reddy N 2-17, Akshath Prabhakar 2-6, Kuldeep Singh Purohit 3-9) & 175/5 in 44 overs (Ayush S Acharya 66, Bhuvan Bhat 25, Rishab B Nayak 32, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 30 n.o., Kuldeep Singh Purohit 2-47). **Secretary's XI : 3; Mangalore Zone: 1.**
At SLS Kreedangana: Dharwad Zone: 247 all out in 78.4 overs (Ayush M Patil 33, Manikanth Shivanand 77, Ashutosh D Hiremath 27, Pavan R Shelled 34, Shreyasagoud Patil 4-21, Pratik Bembulge 2-29) vs Raichur Zone: 24 for no loss (Match drawn, first innings unfinished). **Dharwad Zone: 1; Raichur Zone: 1.**
At Green Sports Village: Tumkur Zone: 176 all out in 50 overs (Naresh 73, Sohan V 36, Farhan Farooq 38 n.o.; Samyak Vellalore 3-35, Neel M Jain 2-22, Sunny Kanchi 4-43) & 121/7 in 51 overs (K Akhil 45, Samyak Vellalore 2-15, Hardhik Chandra 2-19, Nitesh Gowda VR 2-19) drew with President's XI: 219 all out in 62.2 overs (Sameer Deepak Godhi 28, Sean Pratyush Cyril 41, Rohit RV 23, Gaurav Venkatesh 71; Mohammed Akram Sayeed 4-78, Farhan Farooq 2-50, Syed Ghouse 2-20). **President's XI: 3; Tumkur Zone: 1.**
At Green Sports Village: Bangalore Zone: 291/4 in 90 overs (Aadesh D Urs 111 n.o., Dhruv Modhe 46, Vaasav Venkatesh 45, Karan Raghavendra 41 n.o.) & 63/1 in 17 overs (Aadesh D Urs 25 n.o.) drew with Combined City XI : 173 all out in 45.4 overs (Aadharsh SJ 30, Anvay Dravid 58; Nihal Gowda K 3-62, Susheel R Udupi 3-33, Dhruv Modhe 2-16). **Bangalore Zone: 3; Combined City XI: 1.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP

Time for some experiments

Formidable India meet minnows Oman in their final group clash

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Pacer Arshdeep Singh (centre) may finally get a look in against Oman as India are likely to rest Jasprit Bumrah on Friday. AFP

India's lead-up to the defence of their Asia Cup title has been measured, studied, even relaxed. In the two weeks since arriving in Dubai, they have had numerous long and concentrated training sessions at the ICC Academy Oval, but from the start of their campaign on September 10, Suryakumar Yadav's men have played just two matches in nine days.

That will change from Friday, when they make the two-hour drive to Abu Dhabi to take on Oman in their final Group A fixture at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium. Over the next eight days, India will be involved in four games; it could become five outings in 10 days if they make it to the September 28 final, which will be the first objective for a team that won the 50-over Asia Cup title in Colombo two years back but failed to advance beyond the Super Fours when the tournament was played in the current 20-over format here in 2022.

India have barely been stretched by UAE or Pakistan. Victories by nine and seven wickets respectively aptly reflect the strength and dominance of the reigning T20 World Cup winners, who have stacked up a 19-3 win-loss record since July last year. Ahead of the undoubtedly stiffer battles that lie ahead, starting with their opening Super Four contest against Pakistan on Sunday, India's designs will revolve around getting as many batters as they can to spend time in the middle.

Oman have been out of their depth, shot out for 67 by Pakistan and 130 by UAE. Coached by former Sri Lankan captain Duleep Mendis, they are still finding their feet at the international level and while they will be excited at the possibility of being on the same field as their celebrated opponents – the two teams have never met previously – it is inevitable that they will be intimidated by the overwhelming superiority of an Indian outfit that appears to have all bases covered.

India will contemplate rejigging their batting order, if the opportunity presents itself, to allow competitive batting time for the likes of Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel, who constitute a power-packed middle order that will be called into action, potentially under pressure, in the second stage. Abhishek Sharma has produced two terrific cameos without kicking on, Shubman Gill has spent more than enough time at the batting crease in the last three months, Tilak Varma warmed up nicely with a neat effort against Pakistan and Suryakumar has bared his fangs. They will want to fill their boots, too, but team interests will always come first.

While wholesale changes may not be the norm, the return of Arshdeep Singh for Jasprit Bumrah can't be ruled out. India's most prolific T20I bowler, the left-arm quick has been sitting on 99 wickets, and on the bench, since the fourth of five encounters against England on January 31 in Pune. India's stated faith in spin has worked against Arshdeep but as bitter a pill as that might be to swallow, the 26-year-old understands that all he can do is bide his time and prepare as best as possible to grab his chance, as and when it presents itself.

Since their drama-soaked subjugation of Pakistan on Sunday, India have been judicious in alternating between rest and practice. They took Wednesday off and opted for an optional session in Dubai on Thursday evening, wisely choosing to conserve their energies ahead of what is certain to be an arduous week in unrelenting heat.

ICC pulls up PCB for 'misconduct'

World body irked over filming of private meeting

DUBAI, PTI

The ICC is mulling action against Pakistan for "violation of multiple tournament rules" prior to their Asia Cup match against the UAE that was delayed by the team to protest the world body's rejection of its demand to remove match referee Andy Pycroft.

The ICC has shot off an email to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) citing "misconduct" and "multiple violations" of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) protocol before the game held on Wednesday.

"The ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta has written to the PCB stating that the board has been guilty of repeated PMOA violations on match day. PCB is in receipt of the e-mail," a tournament source told PTI.

It is learnt that despite several warnings, Pakistan breached the rules by allowing media manager Naeem Gillani to film a meeting between Pycroft, its head coach Mike Hesson and captain Salman Ali Agha before the toss.

The ICC had made it clear that media managers were barred from such meetings. ICC agreed with PCB that, in order to help resolve the matter related to the toss on Sep 15, Andy Pycroft would meet the team captain and manager before the toss of Wednesday's match.

"The purpose was to eradicate any regrettable misunderstanding or miscommunication which may have arisen at the time of the toss," the tournament source said. "PCB brought to the meeting their media manager and insisted that he be present during the conversation," he added.

The Media manager was refused entry by the ICC Anti-Corruption Manager because he wanted to take his mobile phone into the PMOA, which is tightly regulated. The source that the PCB threatened to withdraw from the match if the media manager was not allowed to attend and then insisted on filming (without audio) the conversation, which was a "further violation of the PMOA regulations."

ICC has also taken exception to a PCB media release that claimed Pycroft had "apologised", when in fact he had merely expressed regret.

A screen grab of the meeting between ICC match referee Andy Pycroft (second from left) with Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson (centre) and captain Salman Agha (third from left) that media manager Naeem Gillani filmed. X

Jurel, Padikkal light up day

LUCKNOW, PTI

India A's Dhruv Jurel hit 113 not out on the third day of their four-day game against Australia A in Lucknow. AFP FILE PHOTO

Wicket-keeper batter Dhruv Jurel's unbeaten 113 underlined a collective batting show from India A that reached 403 for four against Australia A on day three of the four-day game here on Thursday.

Apart from Jurel's 132-ball effort (10x4, 4x6), India were also bolstered by half-centuries from overnight batter N Jagadeesan (64), B Sai Sudharsan (73) and an unbeaten 86 from Devdutt Padikkal.

Sipper Shreyas Iyer (8), though, could not make a mark.

India A were trailing by another 129 runs as the contest heads for a draw.

Earlier, a brisk century from Sam Konstas (109) and Josh Philippe's unbeaten 123 had taken the Australia A side to 532 for six declared.

The teams will face off here at the Ekana Stadium from September 23-26 for the second four-day unofficial Test before heading to Kanpur for a three-match one-day series.

The day's proceedings began with India A resuming at 116 for one as overnight pair of Jagadeesan and Sudharsan looked to build a stand but they could not do so.

Jagadeesan, who had received a Test call-up in England last month, fell for 64 off 113 balls (7x4, 1x6) after he was caught by Philippe off Xavier Bartlett.

The hosts carried on smoothly with the pair of Sudharsan and Padikkal putting on 76 runs to consolidate the innings.

The bulk of the scoring was done by the left-handed Tamil Nadu batter Sudharsan who made his Test debut in England, but Connolly trapped him leg-before in the 59th over of the innings.

India A skipper Iyer indeed had an opportunity to prove his point after recent snubs from the national side and given that the India squad will be soon picked for a two-Test series against West Indies early next month.

Brief scores: Australia A: 532/6 decl vs India A (O/n: 116/1): 403/4 in 103 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 44, N Jagadeesan 64, B Sai Sudharsan 73, Devdutt Padikkal 86 n.o., Dhruv Jurel 113 n.o.).

Lankans tame Afghans to Super 4s ticket

ABU DHABI, PTI: Opener Kusal Mendis blazed away to an unbeaten 52-ball 74 as Sri Lanka defeated Afghanistan by six wickets in their last group league match to qualify for Asia Cup Super Fours stage along with Bangladesh here on Thursday.

Afghanistan were eliminated from the tournament after this result.

Batting first, Afghanistan rode on Mohammed Nabi's 22-ball 60 to post 169 for eight and then saw Mendis guide Sri Lanka past the tricky target of 170 with eight balls to spare. Nabi hammered five sixes in the 20th over from left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage to collect 32 runs off the six legit balls.

The Afghanistan pegged Sri Lanka back in their chase, but Mendis had other plans and the batter got support from Kusal Perera (28) and Kamindu Mendis (26 not out).

Brief scores: Afghanistan: 169/8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Nabi 60; Nuwan Thusara 4-18) lt to Sri Lanka: 171/4 in 18.4 overs (Kusal Mendis 74 n.o., Kusal Perera 28, Kamindu Mendis 26 n.o.) by 6 wkts. **PoM:** Kusal Mendis

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag sail into China Open quarterfinals

SHENZHEN (CHINA), PTI: Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty sailed into the quarterfinals of the China Masters tournament with straight-game wins here on Thursday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, took just 41 minutes to get the better of sixth seed Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand 21-15, 21-15 while the pair of Satwik and Chirag, who recently reached the Hong Kong Open final, aced the Chinese Taipei duo of Hsiang Chieh Chiu and Wang Chi-Lin 21-13, 21-12 in 32 minutes.

By virtue of the win, Sindhu, ranked 14th, improved her head-to-head record against the Thai shuttler to 6-5.

Sindhu will meet top seed An Se Young of Korea in the quarterfinals. An Se edged past Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark 23-21, 21-14.

Sindhu was delighted with the straight-game victory and said she was alert from the start against her Thai opponent.

"It's good that if you win the first game you finish it off in the second game. Straight wins always give you that confidence.," the Indian said after the match.

PV Sindhu. FILE PHOTO

Sat-Chi in last-8

Eighth seeded Satiwk and Chirag, who recently broke a string of early losses to make the Hong Kong Open final, beat the lower-ranked Chinese Taipei pair for the second time this year.

They had defeated Chiu and Wang in three tough games at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 tournament in the round of 32 earlier this month.

If I don't take wickets, there is no place for me: Kuldeep

DUBAI, PTI: During the two months in England when he was warming the bench, the easy way would have been to blame anyone and everyone for his failure to fit into India's playing XI, but Kuldeep Yadav chose to traverse the tougher route.

While spinners who can bat are in vogue these days, Kuldeep has his priorities clear and won't deviate from his philosophy.

"If I play in any team, I will play as a (specialist) bowler. My job is to take wickets. If I don't take wickets, there will be no place for me. It is very important to understand that when you play as a proper bowler, your job is to take wickets for the team," Kuldeep said on Thursday.

Considered India's most versatile spinner of current times, the Kanpur man made it clear that he doesn't want to put all eggs in one basket by trying to transform himself into a bowling all-rounder.

He preferred to work on his skills, improve his fitness, and increase the volume of his bowling before he received his chances again. It paid dividends as the left-arm wrist spinner has got back-to-back Player of the Match award in the first two Asia Cup games, including a three-wicket haul against his happy hunting team Pakistan.

IN BRIEF

Ram stars for RWFSA

▸ Ram scored a brace, while Deekshtih found the back of the net once as RWFSA edge Falcon HC 3-2 in the DS Murthy Memorial hockey tournament at the KSHA Stadium, reports DHNS.

Results: RWFSA: 3 (Deekshtih 20th, Ram 21st, 27) bt Falcon HC: 2 (Sundhar Raj M 37th, 47th); Shlok HC: 5 (Mohammed Ziad 6th, 57th, Sundaram Rajawat 14th, Yashwanth 45th, 47th) Delhi Public School HC: 5 (Muthu 29th, 57th, Shahanul Shafaz 46th, 48th, Saurab Mahesh 55th).

Ashwin for Hong Kong Sixes

▸ Former spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will be a part of the Indian team for the Hong Kong Sixes tournament to be held here from Nov 7-9, organisers said on Thursday, reports PTI from Hong Kong.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
Asia Cup: India vs Oman **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1, Sony Liv.**

ATHLETICS
World Championships: Day 7 **(1:53 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

BADMINTON
China Masters: Quarterfinals **(7:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

Coach Harendra to focus on improving composure

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Coach Harendra Singh says he isn't happy with the silver medal won by the Indian women's hockey team at the Asia Cup and expects the squad to make bigger strides. HI MEDIA

The Indian women's hockey team left for Gongshu, China for the Asia Cup a fortnight ago from Bengaluru after posing for what has come to be a regular practice now - a group photo. Their departure, however, made little news as all of the attention was on their male counterparts chasing a world cup berth at the men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar that was entering the business end of the event.

Unlike the Harmanpreet Singh-led men, who were the top-ranked side and favourites to lift the trophy, the Salima Tete-led women were flying to their destination as a team still under construction. With the formidable hosts, the resilient Japanese and the tricky Koreans in the fray, not much was expected from the Indian women.

As the Indian men won the title and celebrated their spot in the World Cup, the women swatted aside minnows Thailand and Singapore, prevailed over Korea, held Japan to two fighting draws but fell short twice against China to finish runners-up. While the second place was not enough to earn a ticket to the Netherlands and Belgium (hosts of World Cup 2026), it did provide a silver lining and the hope of genuine chance at the World Cup qualifiers in February 2026.

"To be frank, I'm not happy with the silver," head coach Harendra Singh told *DH*.

"We couldn't get through despite a 1-0 lead in the first quarter. We were in it even when we were 1-2 down at half-time. But I think after conceding the third goal (in the fourth) we lost faith and that was disheartening. They scored their last three goals when we had the ball. A small mistake in awareness but we paid a heavy price," summarised Harendra about the 1-4 loss to China in the final.

Speaking about the takeaways from the 10-day competition, the 55-year-old pointed that there were a lot of positives such as better penalty corner defending, circle penetrations, creating opportunities, fighting spirit, faster legs and speed on the field. However, the coach opined that the weeks at the next camp beginning October 12 here will be focussed on improving the composure within the circle, attacking midfielders and upping the quality of shots on the goal that proved to be India's weakness in China.

"We did miss Deepika (main dragflicker), who got injured (hamstring) on the last day of training and I had to change the entire plan. But Udita and Navneet (Kaur) stepped up and took responsibility really well."

While Harendra concurred that his team was far from being a well-oiled unit, he attested that the girls had bounced back impressively from the low of missing the Paris Olympics a year ago when he took charge. So, is the coach happy with the progress made in the process of reaching the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics?

"We now have a good mix of experience and youth. Frankly, I wanted them to win and seal the World Cup spot. But, it's fine. We have made big strides.

"I expect these girls to finish in the top-5 at the World Cup. And I'm not going to accept anything less than a gold at the Asian Games," claimed Harendra.

It's back to the drawing board for the girls now as they play FIH Pro League, Hockey India League, World Cup Qualifiers and potentially the World Cup before landing in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in September-October next year for the continental bash where a top of the podium finish will take them to the 2028 LA Olympics.

Pakistan secure spot in Super 4s

DUBAI, PTI: Pakistan made short work of an inexperienced UAE batting unit by winning their last group league game by 41 runs on Wednesday to set up a much-anticipated Super 4s grudge match against India in the Asia Cup.

It was Shaheen Shah Afridi who blasted an unbeaten 29 off 14 balls to prop up Pakistan to 146/9.

Brief scores: Pakistan 146/9 in 20 overs (Fakhar Zaman 50, Shaheen Afridi 29 n.o.; Junaid Siddique 4-18, Simranjeet Singh 3-26) bt UAE: 105 all out in 17.4 overs (Rahul Chopra 35; Shaheen Shah Afridi 2-16).

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